

Revised and Expanded Third Edition

REBORN IN THE U.S.A.

Personal Privacy
— through —
A New Identity

Trent Sands

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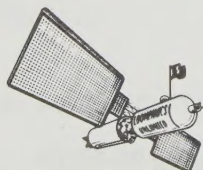
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Loompanics Unlimited
Port Townsend, Washington

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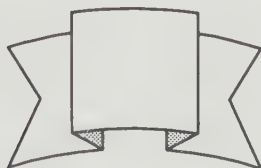
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Introduction to the Third Edition

Many changes have occurred in the world of new identities and alternate identification since the second edition of this book was published in 1991. Some of these changes are minor, others will require changes in procedures for individuals who are interested in establishing new identities.

These changes come primarily from the government. The government at all levels has an ongoing interest in making the establishment of new identities more difficult. Numerous government agencies, from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to state motor vehicle departments, are experimenting with new programs to detect individuals attempting to create new identities.

The Immigration Service's interest is motivated by a desire to prevent illegal aliens from relocating successfully into the United States. State motor vehicle agencies are motivated by a desire to prevent drivers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked from obtaining new ones, and driving again. Police

departments, especially the Federal agencies, are interested in preventing new identities because of the integral role they can have in other crimes, such as bank fraud.

California has perhaps the greatest problem with individuals obtaining licenses with false or alternative identities. A major undercover operation mounted by the California Inspector General led to the arrest of over 60 motor vehicle clerks for selling drivers licenses and state identification cards. These documents were available for a fee between five hundred and a thousand dollars. There was an amazingly elaborate network of motor vehicle department employees, driving school employees and runners who would solicit individuals outside motor vehicle offices.

The licenses sold this way were valid documents. They existed in the motor vehicle mainframe computer. If an individual stopped by police presented one of these licenses, he would pass a computer check.

California also faces the worst problem of counterfeit drivers licenses of all the states. In 1992, California introduced with great fanfare a so-called tamperproof, counterfeitproof drivers license. This new license had numerous security features — multiple holograms, overlapping seals, embedded printing, etc. Within two months of its issuance, an excellent counterfeit could be purchased on the streets of Los Angeles for fifty dollars.

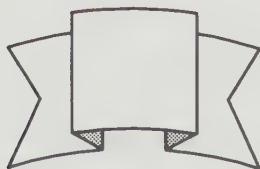
The California counterfeit license problem illustrates a classic axiom of the identification business. What one man can do, another can undo. All of the new computer technology that is now being used on identification documents is also available to counterfeiters. In this edition of the book, we will examine this new technology, and how it can be used or defeated by new identity seekers.

*Introduction
to the Third Edition*

The hallmark of the *Reborn in the USA* method of identity creation has been to build a new identity with a minimum of false documentation. All subsequent documentation after the foundation has been laid, will be validly issued official government identification.

We will examine the changes that have occurred in all phases of the US identification system, and provide new strategies to avoid slip ups and screw ups. We will also examine new legislation that has been passed at both state and federal levels that directly affects the creation of new identities.

One thing is certain, however. More than ten million people in the United States make use of some sort of false identification or altered document. The creation of new identities is as old as America itself. Back in the days of the frontier, people could move out West and recreate themselves, leaving behind their past. Celebrities do the same thing, adopting stage names, and even recreating their past to seem more glamorous. Finally, the government itself creates officially sanctioned new identities for people in the witness protection program, and agents involved in undercover work.



Preface

As Americans, we value our right of privacy very highly. The average person is concerned about the details of his personal life being made public. Information about his income, amount of savings, birthplace, marital status, and other personal data and much more is stored in many different computers that are accessible by many people. Most worrisome is that in the age of the computer all of this data can be quickly assembled into one file on any person.

The reality of today's world is that for a person to function without a lot of hassles (drive a car, cash checks, use credit) he must surrender most of his personal privacy. To drive, a person must have a license, which means a data file at the motor vehicle department. When a person opens a bank account, another data file is created. If a credit card is applied for, a very detailed data file is created with a credit bureau.

This file is updated monthly, and is available nationwide to almost anyone.

This book will show the reader how to regain his privacy through controlling what is stored in those various computers. The reader will enjoy all the benefits of society, but with one important difference: he will do it on his own terms. He will do so through the use of an alternate identity. He will keep his true identity private, and the computers will contain only the information he wants to provide.

There are already many books available on alternate identity. I have read most of them and tested the methods recommended. The problem with most of these books is that many key details are left out — critical details that can make the difference between success or failure. The other books also fail to approach alternate identity in terms of the overall identification system that now exists with the advent of the computer. On balance, I should say that these other books are excellent in many respects, and I refer the reader to these books throughout this one. This book is designed to be a “master guide” to the intricacies of creating new identity that can withstand scrutiny. The other books will allow the reader to develop the expert knowledge in the various phases of creating an alternate identity.

After reading this book, read the others in the Recommended Reading chapter, and you will know almost everything about creating a new identity and, most importantly, how to avoid any screw-ups.

I should say a word about the motivation for this book. I do not advocate using these methods for criminal activity. This book is for the person who wants to regain his privacy. It is also for the person who, because of past misfortune or mistakes, wants to make a fresh start. The starting point is understanding the U.S. identification system.



The U.S. Identification System

Computers are everywhere and the computer never forgets. This is an important fact the new identity seeker should remember. Anytime you have contact with a clerk and a computer, the personal information you provide will be available to someone else for a long time. The identification system has as its foundation your birth certificate. This document validates that you were born in the United States at a certain location, of specific parents.

The birth certificate acts as what is known as a "breeder document" which allows you to obtain a state identity card, drivers license, Social Security card and other identification. Once these other documents are obtained, they become your primary source of official identity.

The motor vehicle department illustrates how the system works. In most states, your basic file at the motor vehicle department will contain:

- Full name
- Birthdate
- Social Security Number
- Home Address
- Telephone Number
- Marital Status
- Height and Weight
- Eye and Hair Color
- Medical Data

Your file will also contain details on the documents you used to establish your identity. This is just your basic file, not including any traffic citations you may get. At first glance, the data seems harmless but it reveals much about you. If you live in a bad part of town, your address reveals that fact, possibly causing you to pay higher auto insurance rates. If you have a medical condition that affects your driving, it is common knowledge.

The most invasive data is your Social Security number, because it has nothing to do with the state function of issuing drivers licenses. Many states that do not put your Social Security number on the front of the license ask for it and store it in the computer. Why? Because with your Social Security number, numerous records about you are quickly available from other, allegedly separate computer files.

Legally, the Social Security number has only these uses: 1) for Social Security purposes and to establish worker enrollment in the program; 2) for federal income and withholding tax purposes — your Social Security number is used to positively identify your income tax return, and to report interest and investment income; 3) to establish eligibility for certain welfare programs, and 4) by the Selective Service system to identify draft-age men.

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A law was passed banning the mandatory use of Social Security numbers by private organizations and most state government agencies. However, a clause in that law allows states that asked for the number before the law went into effect to continue to do so. The first step in understanding the identification system is to realize that your Social Security number has become a universal identifier that allows any record about you to be rapidly matched to other records. In effect, the Social Security number acts as a freeway with various exits that contain the details of your life. The health insurance industry provides the perfect example of how private organizations use the Social Security number.

Almost all insurance companies are members of an organization called the Medical Identification Bureau. The Bureau stores the medical and claim histories of everyone who has health or life insurance. The reason insurance companies request your Social Security number is so that the Bureau can index its files. This is necessary because many people have the same first, middle and last name, as well as identical birthdates. When you apply for insurance, you sign a blanket waiver allowing the insurance company total access to your medical history, and allowing them to share it with other insurance companies. This is why people who have been treated for certain illnesses find it impossible later on to purchase any insurance coverage.

This is bad enough, but the damage can extend much further. Many large companies that offer medical benefits to employees routinely send potential new employees' applications for screening by the Medical Information Bureau. If the application comes back with a notation that the applicant has a poor medical history, it can kill the job offer at once. The worst part is that the Medical Information Bureau is a private group that operates with very little regulation.

Another part of the identification system is the credit bureau. Anytime you apply for a credit card or a loan, your personal details and Social Security number are sent to the credit bureau. If you have had previous financial problems, they will return to haunt you. The information at the credit bureau is updated monthly. In addition to the personal data the credit bureau files contain, your current charge account balances and loan repayment history are shown. The credit bureau also monitors the local courthouse for any lawsuits or judgments against you. I recommend that every reader of this book obtain a copy of his credit file. More information on credit bureaus is contained in the book *Credit: The Cutting Edge* by Scott French, listed in the Recommended Reading chapter.

Although credit bureau information has as its original purpose only to be a tool in assisting with loan decisions, its use has expanded greatly beyond this. Many companies run credit checks on new job applicants, and some landlords run credit checks on applicants for rental housing. A person who has had credit problems in the past can find that he cannot rent an apartment or obtain employment because of the information in the credit bureau files.

The identification system continues with the records your employer maintains, as well as telephone company records. Telephone company records can be especially destructive of your privacy because the phone company knows who, when and where you call. Most telephone companies now request the Social Security number as part of getting new service.

From the different databanks, the government, or *any* investigator, can assemble a file on any citizen detailing the most private areas of his life. You will notice I did not mention arrest records, because compared to what can be learned from other files, they yield relatively little —

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The U.S. Identification System

especially in the case of the law-abiding citizen who has never been arrested.

The federal government has been encouraging states to do more filing and cross-indexing of state records using the Social Security number. This would allow the states to create a central file on a citizen for all state-held information. This is possible because most states have no laws prohibiting this, and the loophole in the before-mentioned law about Social Security number usage as an identifier. A typical state "central index" would be catalogued by name and Social Security number. In the file for each citizen would be headings for state income tax returns, motor vehicle registrations, driver licensing, state court actions in regard to the individual, etc. Remote terminals in state offices would allow any state clerk to access the database. This system would allow the federal government to escape the legal prohibitions against creating a federal central index on all citizens by using the states as proxies.

An example of how this would work is the new federal law that allows states to revoke the drivers licenses of people who have been convicted of federal drug offenses. After a conviction, the federal government gives the convict's name and Social Security number to the states to search for that person's drivers license. Under the central index scheme it becomes very easy to do so. I should mention that this extends to other programs as well, such as public assistance, which are administered by the states.

As we have seen, the identification system has an enormous reliance on the Social Security number because it is the only totally unique identifier people have, other than fingerprints. In the remaining chapters, we will deal with each phase of the system and show you how to defeat it.



The Mail Drop

The first step is to establish an address and telephone number apart from your own. This address will become the “home” of your new identity. In every city there are mail forwarding services. For a monthly fee, these agencies will allow you to use their street address for your mail. For an additional amount, they often offer a telephone message service. The reason for establishing a telephone number and address at a mail service is that, when you obtain the documents for a new identity, there is nothing by way of an address to link the real you with your new identity. The one sticky part of a mail drop is opening your account. If it is done wrong, a link between you and your new identity will be created.

Mail services can be found by looking in the yellow pages. Keep some things in mind as you select your mail drop. Your mail drop should be in a residential area, not downtown. Get a

telephone message service as well — it makes your new identity much more credible. People without a telephone number are suspect. Also, consider the type of neighborhood your mail drop is in. A nice, middle class part of town is perfect. Always try to get a mail drop with 24 hour access. This allows you to pick up your mail from your box at any time in total privacy. Usually you will use the street address of the service, with your box number given as a suite or apartment number.

Opening your mail drop can leave traces, as this example will illustrate. A few years ago, I wrote to a mail forwarding service in another city requesting information, using my real name. A week later I received the application form along with the box number I was to use. I rented the box under a different name, filling out the application in this name. Later when I went to pay my account at this mail service, I caught a glance at their files. Still in the file was my original letter to them with my real name on it. To this mail operator's credit he did protect customers' privacy. But for the alternate identity seeker leaving something serious behind, my error could have been fatal.

When you have located the mail service you want, call them, but do not write. They will send you the information by mail. Do not use your real name, but give your real address. Whoever answers the telephone will jot down your address on a memo pad and send the information. The memo will be thrown out at the end of the day. No trace is created. What you will receive in the mail is a short form from the mail service operator and an imposing looking form from the Post Office. Fill out the form from the mail service operator with a typewriter with your phony name and bogus address. Photocopy it and sign it with an illegible signature. On the postal service form you will be asked to give the name and

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number from two pieces of identification, your current address, and a bunch of other information. Do the same as before, photocopy it and sign it. You will submit the photocopies. Pay for your service with a money order, not with a check or credit card. That just creates a trail back to you.

You will not want mail forwarding. You take in the application in person. Odds are you will not be asked for any identification because the paperwork is already done. A good story to use if you are asked for some identification is to say that you are dropping off the papers for your uncle. Most mail drop operators will not ask a thing. They will give you your box and lobby key, and this will be the only time you will go into the mail service during business hours. Most mail drops will allow you to get mail under any name as long as you use the correct box or suite number.

The next thing to do is start getting some mail at your mail drop. It will look suspicious if for two months you get no mail, then suddenly start getting mail from different state vital statistics bureaus. Sign up for a catalog or magazine subscription. Just make sure that you do not subscribe to any specialized magazines that the old you used to receive. An investigator could find you through the subscriber list.



The Birth Certificate

In many ways, this chapter is the heart of the book. To obtain any government-issued identification, you usually must provide your birth certificate. There are two methods of obtaining a new birth certificate. This first method is known as the “infant identity method” and involves using a birth certificate of someone who died at a very young age. The second method is to create an entirely new identity through a false birth certificate. Each method has its advantages and problems, but, if done properly, the problems with either method can be eliminated.

The infant identity method requires you to find the identity of a dead child. You can do this by going to a graveyard or by going through old newspapers. What you should not do under any circumstances, which is what many of the other books recommend, is to look up a plane or train crash to find a dead child’s identity to use. Why? Because many other identity changers have already requested these birth certificates many

times before. If one particular birth certificate is requested too often, the state vital statistics bureau will flag it for non-release, or trigger an investigation of why it being requested so often. The other pitfall for the identity changer is what is called cross-referencing of birth and death records. Usually this will occur at the county level, but it is also done at the state level in many places. When a person dies in the same county of their birth, the county registrar will stamp "deceased" on the person's birth certificate. In statewide cross-referencing, a similar process will occur at the state vital statistics office for all people who were born and died in that state. There are two possible ways around this problem.

Look through old newspapers for a child who died in an isolated incident. Pick a child who would be around your age today. First write for the death certificate. The death certificate will let you know if the child was born in the same county or state of death. You will write for the death certificate in the name of the father or mother of the late child. You can then request the birth certificate. If the state only cross-references on a countywide basis, the identity is okay to use if the death occurred in another county. If the state cross-references on a statewide basis, you should find another child. However, if this particular identity is ideal for your needs, the following will often work.

In most states both the central vital statistics bureau and local county office issue birth certificates. If there is statewide cross-referencing of birth and death records, often it is only done at the central state office, and will appear on birth certificates issued from that office. A way around this problem is to write to both the county and state offices for the certificate. You will then have a definitive answer. Another loophole is that states that cross-reference only began doing this with records starting at a certain date. There have been too many people born and already dead to go back very far. *The best pro-*

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tection is to find a child who was born in one state and died in another. Another possible loophole is many large cities operate independent vital statistics offices for all births and deaths within city limits. Odds are statewide or countrywide cross-referencing will not affect them. To find out, call or write on suitable letterhead, and ask directly if cross-referencing is in place. I refer you to the book, *Birth Certificate Fraud*, listed in the Recommended Reading.

I cannot overstress the fact that you should not attempt to build your new identity on a child who died in a well-publicized disaster. The local county registrar may remember the incident because he had to issue the death certificates. Or the registrar may even know the late child's parents. The major reason is the one given earlier: Other identity changers may have already used these identities because that method is so widely recommended in other books. The sad but common child death is best for the new identity seeker.

The second method is to create an entirely new identity. I prefer this method because the death of a child is always tragic, and it rubs me wrong to take advantage of it. Done properly, creating your own identity will work just as well, and it has the advantage that you can pick your own birthdate, name, and other data. You must first get hold of a birth certificate. Never purchase one from a mail-order company. Almost all of them are junk, and any bureaucrat will recognize them at once.

Look up old birth notices in a newspaper from the state you wish to be reborn in. Write for a birth certificate. This way you know what the actual state document looks like. This is very important because people move around. If you are in Washington state attempting to obtain a drivers license with a Kansas birth certificate, the clerk might be from Kansas. Or the clerk may have just seen a Kansas birth certificate. Your

foresight ensures that the document you present looks authentic.

Now that you have a birth certificate, you must decide the particulars of your new identity. You should start with a blank sheet of paper and list:

- Full Name
- Birthdate
- Birthplace
- Father's Birthplace
- Father's Name
- Mother's Maiden Name
- Mother's Birthplace

You must invent all of this. Choose a common name, but not Smith, Miller, or Jones. Choose other data that you can easily remember. After you have compiled all the data, you will create a blank of the original certificate, and insert the new particulars. The procedures to follow are laid out in exact detail in the book *Counterfeit ID Made Easy*, listed in the Recommended Reading chapter. I will say more about this in Chapter 9, "Making Your Own Documents."

Although the birth certificate is the crucial document, alone it will not allow you to obtain other government identification. A person with only a birth certificate is suspect. You must have some other identification to support your birth document. This identification is called secondary, back-up, or supportive identification. It is extremely easy to obtain.



New Wrinkles at Vital Statistics

We have seen that the cornerstone of a new identity is the birth certificate. Only the birth certificate allows for all other documents to be obtained with a minimum of fuss and hassle. The birth certificate illustrates the amazing paradox of the identification system. Although documents such as drivers licenses, state identity cards, credit cards, etc., all have numerous security features that make them difficult to forge, birth certificates have a relative paucity of such features.

Recognizing the critical role that birth certificates play in new identity creation, many states have attempted to make the issuance of birth certificates more difficult, and to make the documents themselves more secure.

The insecurity in birth certificates comes from the bifurcation of the birth registration process. We examined this earlier, and the key point to remember is that all certificates filed at the state level, with the central vital statistics bureau,

originate with county and city birth registrars. This is why there are over six thousand offices that can issue birth certificates in the United States.

The state of Virginia has taken the most drastic steps toward making birth certificate issuance more secure. The first is that the number of offices that can issue birth records has been reduced tremendously to a handful. These offices are supervised directly by the Virginia Health Department. All certificates will be issued on a standard, laser printed, computer generated form. This makes counterfeiting a recent issue Virginia birth certificate more of a challenge because the counterfeit document must match very closely to the real document, or it will be recognized as a fraud.

The second step Virginia took was to pass laws that make applying for another individual's birth record a crime, and also making it a crime to produce any document that purports itself to be an official state form.

Some states have taken a different approach. These states are now requesting a photocopy of a photo ID card along with the birth certificate application. The state of Arizona even wants the photocopy to be notarized by a notary public. This type of requirement can be sidestepped by requesting the same record from the county or city office, where such procedures are unlikely to be in place.

The next major development in birth certificates has been the development of the birth card. Most other countries issue a short form birth certificate that is just a little larger than a drivers license. Canada has done this for over forty years. These birth cards were originally laminated in plastic and would contain only the following information:

- Full Name
- Birthdate
- Sex
- Birthplace

- Birth Certificate Number
- Certificate Filing Date
- Certificate Issuance Date

Many states in the U.S. are now doing the same thing. Because the birth card is a relatively new development in the United States, there is not universal acceptance of them by identification issuing bureaucrats, particularly the passport office.

There are definite benefits of birth cards to new identity seekers. Because a birth card does not have race or ethnic information on it, it allows for a new identity seeker to quickly find a viable identity to use. If this route is chosen, it is necessary that the alternate identity seeker select a state whose birth cards are acceptable for all purposes. The application forms from most state vital statistics agencies will notify you as to the acceptance of their birth cards. The following states issue birth cards:

Alaska	Maryland
Arizona	Missouri
California	Nebraska
Florida	Nevada
Georgia	North Dakota
Idaho	Oregon
Illinois	Rhode Island
Kansas	South Carolina
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Washington

In the previous edition of this book we examined the problem of cross-referencing or cross-indexing of vital records. (See Chapter 21 of this edition.) Under such a system, the death certificate of an individual would automatically be matched with the birth certificate of the same individual. Anyone requesting this birth record in the future would

receive a certificate marked "deceased," or have the request refused.

We also saw that this system is not very workable in the United States because birth certificates are issued by two levels of government and also because death certificates are frequently completed without full birthplace information. The only time cross-referencing of birth and death certificates occurs with almost absolute certainty is when the decedent was both born and died in the same county.

Since 1991, there has been more movement on this issue, although the result is still far from being comprehensive. A few states, such as California, do have a statewide system of birth and death record cross-referencing. This is particularly important in California because birth and death records are considered public documents in that state. In California, anyone can obtain the birth certificate of anyone born in California without needing to be a relative or to have some legal reasons for wanting the document.

A new movement has been underway by some state vital statistics bureaus to forward the death records of those individuals under the age of forty who die in a different state than that of their birth. In theory, the state receiving the death certificate should mate it with the birth record.

This happens in some cases, but many times it does not. The key point for someone using the infant identity method to establish a new identity is to investigate completely if this birth certificate has been mated to a death record. This mating of death and birth records, when it does occur, happens almost always at the state level, and rarely at the county level.

Always obtain a copy of the birth certificate from both the county and state agencies, to be sure. It is normally easier to request a birth record from a county registrar than from a state vital statistics bureau. Less information will be required, and you can almost always put your request in the form of a signed

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letter with the correct fee enclosed. Many state vital statistics bureaus will require you to apply for a certificate on their official form. Call or write for current forms and fee information. (See Appendix II for addresses.)

Before creating an identity based on the infant identity method, you must be very careful to make sure no one else is using this identity. In the next chapter, we will explain how to make sure this is not the case, and if it is, how you can still use this identity safely.



The Infant Identity Method: Pitfalls and Solutions

The infant identity method is the preferred method of creating a new identity by many because the birth certificate itself is authentic and verifiable. To create an identity based upon this method, the new identity seeker will search through old newspaper articles and obituaries until he locates an incident where a child, usually under the age of thirteen, has died.

Once this child has been located, a copy of the death certificate will be ordered. The death certificate will provide the additional information that is necessary to order the birth record. Once the birth certificate has been obtained, the new identity seeker can begin the process of obtaining additional identification in the new name.

There are numerous potential pitfalls involved in constructing a new identity this way. Many of these are new, and did not exist in any meaningful way when the first two

editions of this book were written. We will look at each of these potential risks, and then give some ways to minimize or eliminate them.

The first risk with creating a new identity by the infant method is that you have no way of controlling whether another individual will subsequently research the same identity, and then attempt to create a second identity around this deceased individual.

If this second individual tries to obtain a drivers license in the same state that you already have, he will be arrested. After his arrest, it will come out that the birth certificate belongs to someone who had died. Then, an arrest warrant will be issued for you. You might think that the chances of this happening to you are slim, but think again. If you located this child's death, someone else very well could. You have no way to control this, or prevent it from happening.

A similar problem a new identity built on the infant identity method faces is that another individual will successfully establish a second new identity based on this person, but do so in a different state than you have. If this second person later has legal problems, such as an arrest warrant, you will also be subject to being apprehended by the police. Your false identity will then be exposed, and you will face serious legal problems.

In the next chapter, we will examine how to use new computer data networks available to the public to verify if an identity has been used already.

Another problem that you can face by using the infant identity method is a relatively new one. Until recently, most individuals did not obtain Social Security numbers until their late teens, or even later. A Social Security number was normally obtained when a first job was about to commence.

The Internal Revenue Service has now made it necessary that infants one year and older have a Social Security number if the child's parents want to claim a tax deduction for child

care expenses. This has effectively meant that all children now have Social Security numbers.

When these children die, they are entered into the Social Security death index. This computerized file contains the names, birthdates, and Social Security numbers of all deceased individuals. The database will also contain the date of death and place of death of the individual. This index complicates the task of building a new identity by the infant method in two different ways.

At some point, you will need to obtain a valid Social Security number. Previous users of the infant identity method had no problem with this, because the child had no Social Security number. Now, however, there is a very real chance that this child already has obtained a Social Security number. When you apply for a Social Security number in this child's name, the computer will spit out the application because *all* of the file identifiers will be identical. These file identifiers are what allow the Social Security computer system to retrieve a particular file when the Social Security number is not known. These file identifiers are:

- > Full Name
- > Birthdate
- > Birthplace
- > Mother's Maiden Name
- > Father's Name
- > Sex

You will be unable to alter any of these because the birth certificate contains all of this information. You will need to supply the birth certificate and a drivers license or other photo ID when you apply for a Social Security card. These are scanned into the computer and transmitted to Social Security headquarters.

The way around this problem is to consult the Social Security death index once a potential identity is located. If

there is no entry on the death index, it is reasonable to assume that no Social Security card has been issued.

The final problem with an infant based identity is actually applying for the new Social Security number. Because of all the emphasis on collecting overdue child support, Social Security offices are very suspicious of an older adult who comes in applying for a first issue Social Security number. You must have a solid and convincing story already prepared. Anyone over the age of 18 years must apply in person. Some books on new identity recommend applying as a juvenile, because the Social Security card does not have any identifying data on it aside from a name.

This is a viable alternative, provided certain precautions are followed. To do this you will need to doctor the birth certificate to have the same name as the real one, but reflect a different birthdate. The birthdates of the "parents" also need to be changed, so that the certificate does not reflect them giving birth to a child when they would be in their fifties or sixties.

The birth certificate and one other piece of supporting documentation is mailed to the Social Security office, and a card will be issued. The problem is that you will want to work under this number, file tax returns and receive any refunds due you. If the child is five or ten when you apply for the card, it might be obvious to someone that a ten-year-old boy making thirty thousand a year as a computer scientist is not possible. Make sure that the child is at least fifteen years old.



Verifying A New Identity

The Achilles' heel in establishing an identity based on the infant identity method is your inability to control the usage of this identity by another individual. By the same token, there is always the small possibility that a completely fabricated identity will accidentally cross with another, real individual, who possesses the same name and identifiers as your creation. It is therefore imperative that the long term user of a new identity verify that the assumed or created identity not already be in use by another.

An identity derives its uniqueness by certain quantifiable base identifiers. These are the items which, when taken in sum, should identify one individual uniquely, even if some of the items are the same for more than one individual. Base identifiers consist of the following:

- Full Name
- Birthdate

- > Sex
- > Race
- > Eye Color
- > Hair Color
- > Height
- > Weight
- > Birthplace
- > Social Security Number

The first four of these are the identifiers that most law enforcement and other government agency computer systems check when first verifying an individual. A police officer pulling someone over at a traffic stop will run the full name and birthdate through the wanted persons index. IF a tentative hit or match is made, the sex and race will be added. If these two items also match, then a comparison of some of the secondary items will be attempted. The eye and hair color, height and weight will be checked against the warrant entry. If these also match, the individual will be arrested.

The primary identifiers are those qualities that will not change over the course of most individuals' lifetimes. The vast computerization of many record systems now allows a new identity seeker to background an identity based upon the infant method before investing the time, money and energy necessary to document it. This backgrounding has two objectives. The first is to determine if anyone else has already appropriated this identity, and the second is to make sure that there is no negative information, such as a criminal record or outstanding arrest warrants in this name.

These checks are accomplished by accessing databases where an individual building an identity as this person would now have files. This can be done by contacting the pertinent government agencies directly, and through businesses known as information brokers.

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Information brokers are widely used by attorneys and private investigators to access personal information about individuals. Information brokers have access to credit bureau files, criminal records, driving records and motor vehicle databases, bankruptcy filings, and more.

Information brokers used to restrict their offerings to the aforementioned attorneys and investigators. Now, many brokers will sell their wares to the general public. Let's look at how you would check to see if an individual whose identity you wish to assume has possessed a drivers license. You can do it yourself, or use an information broker.

You have done your research and located an infant who is ideal for you to assume. The race and age are close to your own, and the child expired in a quiet incident many years ago. You have obtained the death certificate and now know the child's full name, date of birth, sex and race. We will assume that the child was born in one state and died in another, so cross-referencing of the birth and death records is not an issue.

If someone has already assumed this identity, they will have followed the step by step process by gradually obtaining identity documents. The problem is, you have no idea where this individual has started his or her identity building odyssey. There are fifty states, and your doppelganger could be in any of these states. You must check each of these states, no matter how small or obscure, because a failure to do so poses severe risks for you.

Any user of this identity will have obtained a state identity card and/or drivers license in one of these states. There is also the strong possibility that a voter registration card has also been obtained. Driving records are public record documents in most states, as are voter registration records. After you complete your search of these two record sources and find nothing, you can safely conclude that your desired identity has not already been appropriated.

You can do the driving record search inexpensively by yourself, though it is somewhat time consuming. You would write to each state motor vehicle department requesting them to perform a driving record check for the name and birthdate of your intended identity. In a few weeks you will receive a copy of the individual's driving record, if one exists, or a statement to the effect no such individual is listed in their files. You should write to each state first, requesting a request form and current fee information. A few states will not release this information to you directly. These states require you to use an information broker.

Voter registration records are best accessed via an information broker. About thirty states now have computerized statewide voter registration lists. Information brokers purchase these lists, and can run the search for you on their own computer. In a matter of a few minutes, you can learn if your potential namesake is already registered to vote.

Another data source to check is worker compensation records. Ten states allow the public access to worker compensation files.

Alaska

Arkansas

Connecticut

Illinois

Iowa

Kansas

Maine

Maryland

New Jersey

Oklahoma

The last record you should search for, or perhaps the first, depending on your perspective, is to check if this identity has already obtained a passport. Under the federal Freedom of Information Act, passport records are public records documents. Many new identity seekers obtain a passport in the name of the deceased infant, because it allows for overseas travel, and can also function as proof of citizenship and identity when applying for a job. The beauty of a passport check is that if you receive a record of a passport in this name,

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you know you cannot use it. A passport record search must be made by you, and it will take at least sixty days before you get a response. The address to write to is:

Passport Services
Freedom of Information Act
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20423

If all of these searches have yielded no matches, you will then want to check for a criminal record or outstanding arrest warrants. There is a slim possibility another identity changer appropriated this identity many years before in some obscure location that your record check failed to turn up, and then was arrested or has a still outstanding arrest warrant. There are two ways to check for this possibility.

The first is via some information brokers. Many brokers will perform what is known as a wanted fugitive check. This search involves running the name and birthdate against the National Crime Information Computer wanted persons index. This is a relatively new search, and it is especially popular with information brokers who provide tenant screening services to apartment owners. The FBI agreed to allow this outside access to their database because arrest warrants are public record documents, and the FBI has an interest in seeing that wanted fugitives are apprehended.

Checking for a criminal record, as opposed to an outstanding arrest warrant is more problematical. The FBI does not allow private corporations third party access to what is known as the Interstate Identification Index, or Triple I for short.

Triple I is supposed to be a truly nationwide repository of criminal record information. When an individual is arrested by a local jurisdiction, a record of this arrest is sent to the FBI when a fingerprint check is run. Later, when the individual is

convicted or acquitted of the charges, the local jurisdiction is supposed to forward this data to the FBI as well. Over time, a comprehensive database of all serious misdemeanor and felony convictions of any individual should be created. The federal court system also feeds its criminal information directly into Triple I.

Triple I has many problems. One major problem is that many of the records in the system have no disposition information shown. An individual falsely accused of a crime and arrested, but then later released, will still have the original charge recorded by Triple I. The second problem is that not all jurisdictions are careful in forwarding charge and conviction information to Triple I.

Luckily, there is a way an individual attempting to build a new identity can access Triple I. The Brady handgun law requires that all gun purchasers submit to a background check. This background check involves running the name, birthdate, race and sex through the Triple I database and the state central criminal record repository. If these checks come back clean, the buyer will be allowed to purchase the weapon. One way a new identity seeker can verify that the new identity has not been compromised is to apply to purchase a gun with a piece of fake ID in the name of the desired subject. If the name comes back clean, you can assume no criminal record or arrest warrants exist in this name.

Information brokers that purport to do nationwide criminal record searches are overstating exactly what they do. If you do not wish to avail yourself of the Brady law, you can do your own search at much less cost than an information broker, and with better results. (However, an outstanding arrest warrant search is best done via the broker, for the reasons mentioned previously.)

Some information brokers who offer nationwide criminal record checks avail themselves of a new database that culls

criminal conviction information from newspapers and county courthouse records. Over a million records are now in this system, but there are over twenty times as many records that are not included.

A few states allow individuals to query the state central criminal database to determine if an individual has been convicted of a crime, and the federal Bureau of Prisons will confirm the criminal record of any individual over the telephone. Outside of this, any nongovernment agency would have to check for a criminal record county by county.

You should begin your criminal record search at the federal level. The federal Bureau of Prisons runs a national inmate locator service for all current and former inmates. They will tell you what the individual was convicted of, what federal prison time was served in, and the length of the sentence. The telephone number is: 202-307-3126.

About twenty states allow the public access to their central crime computers to check for a criminal record on an individual. In these states, you can perform the search yourself for very little money. You can use an information broker, if you prefer. The search results will come back faster, but at a price. The addresses for all states that allow public access appear below:

Colorado:

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Identification Unit
690 Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80215

District of Columbia:

Criminal Records
500 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Florida:

Crime Information Bureau
PO Box 1489
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Hawaii:

Criminal Justice Data Center
465 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Illinois:

Forensic Services and Identification
260 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60431

Indiana:

Central Repository
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Kansas:

Kansas Bureau of Investigation
1620 Southwest Tyler
Topeka, KS 66612

Kentucky:

Records Section
1250 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

Maine:

Bureau of Identification
36 Hospital Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Mississippi:

Records Department
PO Box 880
Parchman, MS 38738

Missouri:

Criminal Records Division
PO Box 568
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Montana:

Montana Identification Bureau
303 North Roberts
Helena, MT 59620

North Dakota:

Bureau of Criminal Investigation
PO Box 1054
Bismarck, ND 58502

Oklahoma:

Criminal History Information
PO Box 11497
Oklahoma City, OK 73136

Oregon:

Bureau of Criminal Identification
3772 Portland Road NE
Salem, OR 97310

Pennsylvania:

Records and Identification
Central Repository
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

South Carolina:

Criminal Records Section
PO Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221

Wisconsin:

Records Section
PO Box 2718
Madison, WI 53701

After you have performed the state and federal record checks, you will need to perform county by county records checks. You will want to perform these in the county where the individual was born, counties where he has relatives, well known vacation areas such as Las Vegas or Orlando, and finally, the area where you intend to relocate as this individual.

When performing a criminal record check in a large metropolitan area you will want to make sure that you search for a record in all adjacent counties that form part of the metro area. County level criminal record checks are quite simple, and can often be done over the telephone, and sometimes are free. Write or call the clerk of the court in the county concerned for the procedures involved.

Throughout this chapter I have mentioned how to use information brokers to verify a new identity. I personally deal with the following information brokers:

NCI Incorporated at www.nci.com
Docusearch at www.docusearch.com
ATT Investigations at:
PO Box 25831
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33320
Phone: (954) 733-4005
Fax: (954) 677-0562
Toll Free: 1-800-733-4405

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Before sending any money to an information broker, write for a current brochure and ask questions about the capability of their services.

Once you have verified that the identity you wish to assume is not already in use, you will then need to take steps to protect this identity from being appropriated by another individual doing the same thing you have done. In the next chapter, we will outline an almost foolproof method of doing just this.



Securing The New Identity

The danger of another individual appropriating the same new identity as yourself was a purely academic matter twenty years ago in the 1970s. Back then, as long as you and the other individual living under the same identity did not live in the same state and avoided serious legal trouble, there was almost no risk of detection by the authorities. How could this have been?

Twenty years ago the computerization of databases was still in its infancy, and data matching between one database and another was almost unheard of. It is not the computerization of the files, per se, that creates the danger. It is the widespread use of datamatching programs that creates the danger.

The earliest datamatching program in the identity field began with the national driver register, or NDR, for short. This database contains the names and birthdates of all individuals who have had their licenses revoked or suspended. When an

applicant for a new drivers license fills out the paperwork to get a license, the state motor vehicle computer will conduct an online instant check to see if the individual is listed with NDR. The NDR is also programmed to catch people who transpose their first and middle names when seeking a new license after suspension or revocation.

Twenty years ago, the NDR operated very inefficiently. Most states submitted names and birthdates only after a new license was issued, and this was done by mail. At that time, the various state motor vehicle computer systems could not talk to each other. If an ineligible individual had obtained a new license, the state would find out about it weeks or months later. By the time a revocation letter was sent to the license holder, he could have moved on to another state, turning in the original license for yet another new one. The system was so cumbersome, that many people were never caught.

In those days, if you had a license from New Jersey in your new identity's name, and another individual had a license in Texas in the same name, there was no problem as long as no super serious legal problems were gotten into. The Texas motor vehicle computer was not linked to the New Jersey computer, and if both of you were good drivers who never suffered license revocation or serious suspension, no one was the wiser.

This is no longer true. All state motor vehicle agencies can share information with each other, and all consult the NDR online during the license application process. How then, can you secure this new identity in the brave new world of computer database matching?

You can do so by availing yourself of a common law right Americans have in most states. The right is the right to change your name, provided the reason is not to deceive or to defraud, or otherwise escape obligations. Once you have changed the name of the new identity, you can then proceed to get new,

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officially sanctioned documents in this name. Let's follow through this process step by step.

Once you have located a new identity that meets your needs, you will want to find a state far away from where this individual has any family and also far away from where you intend to settle as this individual. The other factor that must be considered is how easy it is in this intermediate state to change your name, and have the new name placed on official government documents.

Most states allow you to change your name via two methods. The first method is the use method, the one that is rooted in common law. To change your name via the use method, you would provide documentation to a motor vehicle clerk that people in the community know you as Joe Homeskillet, and not as Isaac Blevins Junior.

This proof could consist of such things as utility bills, other bills, business cards, correspondence from other individuals, etc. Once this has been proven, a new license with your new name can be issued.

The second method is the court method. With this method you file a petition with a court, usually a local county court, to change your name. You will provide the reason you want the name change. You will also have to advertise the fact you are changing your name in either a local newspaper, or a local legal gazette. Once you have met these requirements, and no one has come forward to protest your name change, the judge will grant your wish. He will issue you an official order changing your name. With this form you can go and get most of your identification changed to the new name.

States that will grant name changes via the use method are preferred ones. Regardless of how the state does business, you will be required to show that you are a resident of the state. This can be accomplished by means of a secretarial service address, or by renting a room in an inexpensive apartment or

flophouse. Such places tend to exist in abundance near college and university campuses.

Once you have a suitable address, start documenting the identity at this address with a voter registration card, library card, state identification card, etc. Once you have this documentation issued in the name of the new identity, start creating documentation in the name you wish to assume. Get business cards and a letterhead in the new name. Register at a local college in the new name. Obtain a hunting or fishing license in the desired name.

After a number of months, call up the motor vehicle department and see what you will need to bring to show you have changed your name by the use method. The following states recognize the use method of name change:

Alabama

California

Idaho

Indiana

New Hampshire

Tennessee

The reason that the use method is preferable is that you do not have to create a paper trail of legal filings, which creates the possibility, although quite remote, that someone can use it to unravel your new identity. This is also the reason for picking an intermediate state for conducting the name change in. Once you have been issued a new drivers license or state identification card in your new name by the intermediate state, you can move on to your final state of residence. When you obtain identification there, it will be "virginal" — there will be no reference to your old name at all in this final state. Some new identity seekers will even add a third step — going to a second intermediate state and obtaining new documents there in the new name before moving on to the final state.

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The court method can have a few advantages, however. Once your name change has been granted by the court, you will have no difficulty getting bureaucrats to change your documentation. The judge's order must be honored. The key question in picking a state to use the court method in is to find a state that will require as little personal information from you as possible.

Some states require a detailed personal history. This personal history will ask questions about where you were born, names of your parents and other relatives, Social Security number and drivers license numbers, and a list of all previous addresses. You will be asked for details of any previous marriages, etc. Once this form is filed with the court, it becomes a public document open to anyone who wishes to make a copy. These states should be avoided.

The states most hostile to name changes are:

Connecticut	Michigan
Florida	Minnesota
Georgia	New York
Hawaii	North Carolina
Illinois	Oklahoma
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kansas	Vermont
Louisiana	Virginia
Maine	

In other states, it is easier to use the court method. In many of them, there are preprinted forms to be completed, much in the manner of a do-it-yourself divorce. Once these forms have been completed, and proof of meeting the conditions required, such as running a newspaper notice, has been submitted, the name change will be granted unless someone can show cause why it should not be.

The one document you will not be able to get changed is your birth certificate, however. Most states will not change the birth certificate of an adult who has changed his name. Sometimes, they will make an addendum to the certificate reflecting the name change, but this is all.

This is the one limitation of this method. But if you never need to obtain a passport, it is a moot point. A way around this problem might be to create a high quality forgery with the new name. The benefit of doing this is that you will not be relying on the birth certificate to obtain your identification documents, since you will already have them. The high quality forgery could be used to obtain a passport. A passport should not be applied for until you have had identification in your new name that is at least a year old, and preferably two years old.

In the next chapter, we will examine the many birth certificates and other fake identity documents that are available via mail order, and what makes a good forgery a good forgery.



Mail-Order Identity Documents

Twenty years ago, the mail-order identification business operated unfettered. There were few laws at the state level that dealt with mail-order identification, and there was no federal legislation at all. The state laws only applied to specific documents within that particular state. So if you ran a mail-order drivers license operation in Georgia, for example, as long as you did not sell fake Georgia licenses to people in Georgia, you were safe.

Back in those days you could purchase excellent quality drivers licenses for all fifty states from numerous vendors. The state of computer technology at that time also acted as a help to those wanting these documents to establish a new identity. The scheme would work like this.

An individual who had had his license revoked in state "A," would purchase a mail-order drivers license from a far away state in a different name. The mail-order license would have

the same general format and layout of a real one from that state, state "B."

The individual could safely drive with this license because twenty years ago police officers did not have the computer capability to check an out-of-state license. Most officers would carry a book with them that gave samples of what various other states' drivers licenses looked like. The cop would compare the fake mail-order license with his guide book, and conclude it was real license.

The holder of this fake license could then use it to obtain a genuine license in state "A," the state where he lost his original license. He would simply present the phony license to the motor vehicle clerk. If the clerk had any suspicions, he would consult his manual of out-of-state licenses, and quickly conclude that the phony license was real.

The new identity seeker would take the written test, and then be issued a genuine license on the spot. The old license would often not be taken from the applicant. Frequently it would be invalidated by punching a hole through it and returning it to the applicant. If the old license was taken from the applicant, it was usually just destroyed. It was almost never sent back to the supposed state of issuance.

Now, it is all different. When an individual with an out-of-state drivers license applies for a new license in a new state, the first thing the clerk does is to verify its validity with the other state. This is done via an online computer hookup. The other state motor vehicle department will tell the clerk if the license is valid, and the name and birthdate of the license holder, and if there are any outstanding suspensions or other serious infractions against the driver.

The second development that altered the mail-order identification business was the passage of the first federal legislation regulating the interstate sale of nongovernment identification

documents. This law is called the False Identification Crime Control Act of 1982.

This law requires that the statement “not a government document” be placed across the face and back of any document sold as identification in interstate commerce. A second restriction is that the identity document cannot bear a birthdate or age for the individual.

Shortly after the law went into effect in 1983, many mail-order fake identification businesses were raided by the FBI and shut down. This coincided with a get tough attitude toward welfare cheats who would use fake identification documents to obtain additional benefits. A related investigation, called Dipscam, was run by the FBI in the late 1980s to bust fake colleges and universities that would issue diplomas and transcripts for a fee. These diploma mills were seen as another part of the fake identification problem.

There is now some good news for those who need or want to use mail-order documents to start or buttress a new identity. The first is that computer technology has made some of the provisions of the federal law irrelevant. Consider the requirement for the “not a government document” disclaimer on the front of a fake identification. Computer programs will allow you to electronically scan the document and remove the disclaimer, and then reprint a new original without any evidence existing that any alterations were made. More on this in a later chapter on making your own documents.

Mail-order document vendors have now learned how to comply with the letter of the law, if not the spirit. This way they can avoid prosecution. Consider the “not a government document” disclaimer again. One vendor sells drivers licenses from all fifty states which look excellent when laminated. The way they comply with the law is that technically they are “go-kart” drivers licenses, with the word Go-Kart printed on a line above “drivers license.” This disclaimer also appears on this

part of the document as well. All the purchaser must do is simply cut the license below this line, and the offending "Go-Kart" and disclaimer are removed. There is no prohibition against selling a go-kart license.

Some vendors have taken a slightly different approach. These companies advertise themselves as a document replacement service, and require you to sign an affidavit attesting to the fact that you are replacing documents which you rightfully have earned.

One company, called I.D. World, will produce custom birth certificates, college diplomas and transcripts, military service records, etc. The difference is, they are producing documents purported to have been issued by real colleges, hospitals, etc. Rest assured that they keep excellent records. If they are ever harassed by law enforcement, they can legally cover their ass by turning over copies of all their signed customer affidavits stating that they were simply replacing lost or stolen documentation.

The danger of using a service like this in creating a new identity should be quite obvious. You will receive some excellent quality documentation, but your risk of exposure is very real. Places such as I.D. World will not sell blank custom documents. They sell the blank junk that is available anywhere else, but the custom forms are only sold after you have signed a release. Purchasing documents from a document replacement service is like informing the police that you are establishing a new identity.

Most of the other mail-order firms sell their wares in kit form, which means you must do the work yourself to assemble them. Typically these are generic looking "birth certificates" and other identity cards that would impress no one. The most these should be used for is body copy when producing your own certificates.

A second consideration when dealing with mail-order identification suppliers is who uses the documents. All of these companies must advertise to sell their wares. People who know little or nothing about false identification are the ones most likely to purchase these documents and then attempt to get a drivers license or other official document.

One group, a very large group of people who might do this are illegal aliens. There are over five million illegal aliens in the United States, and most of them have some sort of false documentation.

The point I am making is that many people will have been detected trying to use identity documents from mail-order suppliers. Motor vehicle department personnel are given bulletins and training to be on the lookout for certain types of documentation that are false.

The most these mail-order documents should be used for is as secondary documentation, or to fill a gap until you can obtain a real document or produce a better one yourself.

There are also some telltale signs that give many of these mail-order documents away as forgeries to a person trained to examine documents. Consider the custom birth certificates produced by ID World. The first item to notice is that most of their custom birth certificates are hospital type birth certificates. They offer only one non-hospital certificate, from New York City. The New York Certificate has the seal of the state of New York on it, not that of the city of New York. A clerk who is used to seeing New York City documents might notice this discrepancy.

The hospital certificates all have a similar flaw. A real hospital birth certificate bears the seal of that hospital and the signature of an administrator. All of I.D. World's custom hospital birth certificates bear state seals — a big error. Good forgeries pay close attention to details such as these. It is

possible that they do not use a hospital seal, because then they might be prosecuted for forging an official hospital document.

The following firms were active in the mail-order identification business at the time of the writing in mid-1997:

Couch Potato Publishing
4211 Little Road, Suite 9
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Maxsell Corporation
4038 Powerline Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

I.D. World
4038 NW 9th Avenue
Oakland Park, FL 33309

Specialty Document Company
PO Box 5684
El Monte, CA 91731

L.W. Craig Associates
310 West Bell Street
Fort Worth, TX 76140

Cardinal Publishing Company
PO Box 5200
Jacksonville, FL 32247

Ideal Studios
PO Box 41156
Chicago, IL 60641

NIC Law Enforcement Supply
500 Flournoy Lucas Blvd., #3
Shreveport, LA 71106

IFPO
PO Box 18205
Washington, DC 20036

Antidote Press
1442 East Lincoln Avenue, Suite 173
Orange, CA 92665

The Baird Company
PO Box 7240
Moreno Valley, CA 92552

Unique Products
PO Box 9766
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310

Positive ID
PO Box 5087
Anaheim, CA 92814

Photo ID Systems
831 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1K7
Canada

The one place that mail-order identification can be an excellent idea is when you are first building your identification portfolio. The easy cards come first — voter registration, library card, student card, etc. You can complement this with an excellent quality employee identification card from one of the companies listed.

I personally recommend the services provided by Positive ID. Their identification documents are the highest quality I have seen, and they are a reputable firm. They provide

identification cards for many corporations and educational institutions.

Their cards are made with the very latest technology, which is to have the card printed on the type of plastic stock credit cards are. These are not two-piece, glued-on-picture documents. You send them the information you need — company name, address, phone number, logo, etc. This is then used to create a master template that individual cards can be issued from. The cost of this service is a very reasonable seventy dollars.

Once the master template is created, you simply send in your picture and personal details. They will then create as many individual cards as you need for less than ten dollars a card. This is an excellent investment, because your employee identification card will be readily accepted by bureaucrats who issue other identification. It will be clear that you did not cook this card up at home.

An excellent quality employee identification card, coupled with good backstopping — working telephone numbers that are answered and an address at a secretarial service — will go a long way in making the early phases of your new identity creation easy. The Positive ID firm also offers a generic individual identification card, using the same process. Both of these documents would be an excellent investment on the road to your new identity.

Earlier in this chapter, I made reference to do-it-yourself documents frequently being better than the garbage sold by most mail-order firms. I should restate the point, that counterfeit documentation should be limited to birth certificates, baptismal records and Social Security cards. The whole point in creating a new identity is to have it documented with real identification that will stand up under official scrutiny, not to accumulate a pocketful of perfect looking forgeries.

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Keeping this in mind, if you do not create your new identity around a deceased child, you will need to manufacture a birth certificate as the foundation document of your new identity. In the next chapter, we will take a short course in how this is done.



Making Your Own Documents

Since the second edition of this book was published in 1991, computers have become much cheaper and even easier to use. It is quite possible for a novice computer user to create excellent quality birth and baptismal certificates. All users of the false birth certificate method of new identity creation will be faced with this task.

The first item to understand is exactly what it is that most individuals present when asked for their birth certificate. In general, it is not an original certificate that is presented, but a certified copy of a record on file. The quality of these certified copies can vary greatly, from pristine to just barely legible. There also tends to be a big quality gap between certificates issued by a central vital statistics bureau and those from a county and city registrar.

These certified copies run the gamut, depending what kind of system is in use at a particular vital statistic agency. In

general, certified copies from local county or city registrars will be photocopies of the original, while state issued birth extracts will frequently be issued on fancy multicolored paper.

Some states have gone to having all certificates issued in original only form. In these states, extracts of births are entered into the computer system. When a record is requested, it is located on the computer, and a new, original record is created at this time. Another system in use in some states is microfiche. All of the original records are entered onto microfiche. When a certificate is requested, the microfiche is consulted, and a copy of the record is made.

We can see how these different systems of record retrieval lead to a wide variation of certificate quality. In the microfiche system, you are getting a second and third generation copy. The original certificate had to be copied for the microfiche, and the microfiche image must be copied for the certificate requester. Documents from states that use this system are frequently washed out looking.

Regardless of which state or county a birth record comes from, it will have certain common characteristics. One of these is that the name of the issuing authority is clearly indicated. One frequent omission on mail-order documents is the lack of a heading that indicates what agency or office issued the certificate.

Most birth certificates are issued by a Bureau of Vital Statistics at the state level and by the county health department or county registrar at the local level. In some states, the public records office or recorder or deeds office will issue the certificate.

So the first step for the new identity seeker who must create his own document is to determine who would have issued the state or county certificate he intends to duplicate.

The second item all real birth certificates possess is a certification stamp and seal. Any certificate missing this detail

will stand out as a forgery. The certification stamps and seals on most mail-order documents are defective.

Many mail-order documents provide the purchaser with a generic seal that says “state of residence” or some other nonsense. No real document has such malarkey on it. Some customized certificates have the state seal on them, but it is not made specific with the name of any government agency on it.

Let’s briefly review what a certification seal should and should not say. If a birth certificate is issued by a state central vital statistics bureau, it will bear the seal of the state on it. However, in writing around the image of the seal will be the name of the state vital statistics or health department, because this department is the state agency that actually issued the document. In most cases, the seals will be embossed with an embossing tool. An embossed seal is one that is raised above the surface of the paper, and can be felt when touched.

A county or city issued certificate will usually, but not always, bear the seal of the county or city that issued the certificate. In this case of a county certificate, the writing around the seal image will usually just say, for example, “Polk County Registrar’s Office,” since it is usually the county registrar’s office that issues the certificates. A few county registrars will use a state seal on their certificates. A city issued certificate will almost always have the seal of the city on it, with only the writing “City of Metropolis,” for example, around the image.

The starting point for making a good forgery is to order a real birth certificate from a number of city or county registrars. A county issued birth certificate is better to forge than a state issued one, in most cases. This is due to the fact that state issued certificates tend to be more standardized than their county level counterparts. Different counties within the same state may issue certificates with differing formats, and the

same county may issue many different types of styles of certificates over the years. No one, without going to a lot of effort, can prove your well done county issued forgery is not real.

A real certificate will also bear the typed name and written signature of the director of the issuing agency, be it county, city or state. Many times the signature will be preprinted on the paper. The certificate will also have a date stamp on it reflecting the date it was issued.

Computer technology now makes it easy to turn out excellent replicas of birth certificates. I will outline the steps to be followed.

The first step is to obtain samples of the documents you are interested in working with. This is easier than it seems. Simply consult some old editions of out of town newspapers. Turn to the classifieds and look for birth announcements. The birth announcement will give you enough information to order the birth certificate, which you can now do from both the county registrar and the state vital statistics bureau.

After you have the documents, you will want to scan them into your computer at a minimum of 600 dpi, if not higher. Scanning at this resolution or better ensures that you do not lose any resolution during the scanning process. It will take much longer to scan a document at say, 1200 dpi, if your scanner has the capability, but the results are well worth it.

Once this document is scanned into your computer, you can use a program such as Photoshop to alter the certificate. You can remove all of the current writing that describes the child's name and birthdate, and substitute your own. You can allow the doctor's signature and that of the registrar to remain. You remove the date stamp from the certificate, and replace it later with your own. Finally, you will want to remove any traces of the embossed seal that may show through on the scanned image.

Now you can print this image, at maximum resolution, onto quality parchment stock that closely resembles the paper the original came on. You would then use your embossing tool to emboss a new seal on the certificate, and date stamp it with your stamper. You now have a usable birth certificate that does not look like a copy of a copy of a copy. More information on this method of making birth certificates can be found in the book *Acquiring New ID*, by Ragnar Benson.

What if you do not have access to a computer? Can you still make quality birth certificates? The answer is yes, it will just take a little more effort. The biggest threat to quality control is how many generations removed from the original you must get. As you continue to make a copy of a copy of a copy, you lose resolution with each successive copy. The goal then, is to minimize this.

You will need to copy the certificate once, to make a good working copy. The better the quality of this first copy, the better your finished product. The work copy is one where you remove the information you do not wish to retain on your new certificates. The way to ensure that this copy is good is to first protect the original. If the original certificate arrives folded up, unfold it and place it under a heavy book for a few days. This will help to remove the fold lines.

Before handling the original, wash and completely dry your hands. This way you avoid getting any smudges on the document. Protect the original by placing it inside of a plastic folder or sleeve. This way you avoid bending or damaging the edges.

It is best to make your work copies at a self service copy shop, such as Kinkos. They have the latest machines, and they are well maintained. Before using the machine, clean the screen and the backing cover with glass cleaner. Most self service copy shops have glass cleaner available to finicky patrons.

After you have placed the certificate down on the glass, make one copy with the contrast button set in the neutral or normal position. Examine the result. You will probably have to play around with this control to find the setting that gives you the optimum clarity. Once you have done this, make at least 20 copies at this setting. You now have plenty of work copies.

Once this is done, you will need to use correction fluid to remove the offending language. Use correction fluid sparingly. A little goes a long way. Another method to remove offending text is to place removable white labels over the undesired writing. Use the same diligence in this step as during the first. Wash your hands completely, and protect this document in a plastic cover.

Return to the copy shop, and clean the machine again. Place the certificate face down on the machine and copy. This copy should be correct and clear, and most importantly, not contain any of the transition lines on it that the work copy has from correction fluid. On this copy, you fill in the information you want, and then make another copy.

How can you get seals and embossing tools? These are not as hard to get as you might think. In most states, it is not illegal for anyone to reproduce the state seal. What is illegal is to reproduce the state seal with the writing of an official agency around this seal. One company, NIC, mentioned in the listing of mail-order ID suppliers, will sell you seals from all fifty states along with an embosser.

If you want to get a state seal with agency writing on it, it is not that difficult. Many office supply stores sell notary seals and also produce seals for corporations. For thirty dollars, you can get these places to produce a state or county seal with anything you want on it. Just do not ask for a seal of the state and/or county you are in. To remove any resistance at all, go in with a business card made up in the name of "Acme Movie

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Props," or some other name, and tell them it is needed for an upcoming film. You will have no trouble.

The last item to tend to is the numbers on birth certificates. Most writers of new identity books conveniently forget to mention anything about these. These numbers are not made up willy nilly. The people who accept birth certificates understand how birth certificates are numbered, and their suspicion will be aroused by a document that is perfect in all other respects except this. I discuss this numbering briefly elsewhere in this book, and a full discussion of this topic can be found in *Understanding U.S. Identity Documents*, available from Loompanics Unlimited.

Over the last six years there have been changes in the design and manufacture of identity documents, especially drivers licenses and passports. In the next chapter, we will examine some of these developments.



Technological Developments

The world of identification is always changing. The identity bureaucrats are always attempting to come up with ways to make their documents more secure and forgery proof. At the same time they are also devising ways that other businesses and government agencies can obtain information from your identification documents easily.

Motor vehicle department bureaucrats have been the busiest. We have seen the complete elimination of two-piece identification documents by motor vehicle agencies in all states. The next big shift has been the introduction of magnetic stripes on the back of drivers licenses and state identity cards.

These stripes are used to encode the personal data on the card, much as a magnetic strip is used to encode the account number and cardholder name on a credit card. The problem is that other messages or information could be encoded onto

these magnetic strips, and that other companies can make use of this data.

This has already happened. Many check verification services use terminal authorization machines that can read the information from mag stripped licenses directly. In fact, this industry is one of the reasons that this type of license is becoming more and more popular.

The next development has been the introduction of holograms onto licenses and identification cards. This makes the alteration of these documents much more difficult, as any tampering with the original will destroy the hologram. However, it is now possible to purchase stick-on holograms that counterfeiters can add to fake documents to give them a more official look.

Another development has been to have fine printing on the actual plastic laminate. This printing can be anything from the word "Drivers License" spelled out repeatedly to the state seal or emblem.

Many states have converted their licenses from the familiar laminated Polaroid film style to the plastic credit card style, where the data and photograph are electronically etched onto the plastic. Some of these licenses will even have a second, smaller picture of the driver elsewhere on the license, and it only makes itself visible when the license is turned a certain way.

Social Security documents have now become invalid if laminated. The complete transition from the old white card that most people would get laminated has occurred. An interim card, that appears very similar to the current marbled blue background card now in use, that could be laminated, has been discontinued. Now all Social Security cards say "Do Not Laminate" on the back of them.

These cards can be hard to duplicate, even on a computer with a good color printer because the alternating blue and

white discs that make up the background are hard to color match.

The big push with birth certificates issued at the state level has been to go with multicolored paper, containing inks that flash “Do Not Copy” if someone attempts to make a photocopy of a document. Some states have gone to intaglio printed documents, which can be more expensive for the forger to duplicate, but not impossible. It is only a matter of a little time before technology allows the forger to recreate the latest “secure” document.

For example, the documents that flash “Do Not Copy” can be defeated by a computer program such as PhotoShop. The offending text is simply highlighted and removed. A magnetic strip drivers license can be defeated the old fashioned way by simply running a strong magnet over the strip a few times. Once this is done, a forged license could still be used. When the strip cannot be read, the person will simply read the data off of the face of the license.

In the end, it is always a matter of what one man can do, another can undo, given a little time and effort.



Getting Identification Cards

Your birth certificate must be accompanied by other documents so that you appear to be an upstanding citizen. This is the only time that you will make use of mail-order and self-made identification cards.

The first piece of supportive identification you will need is a Social Security card. Not the real one from Uncle Sam (that will come later) but a mail-order one. Mail-order Social Security cards are one of the few times where mail-order identification is just as good as the real thing. The reason for this is over the years many different types of Social Security cards have been issued by the government. The design is basically a blue bordered card with the words "SOCIAL SECURITY" at the top. Your Social Security number is underneath on a white background, along with your printed name and a signature space. Some editions of the card have a seal on it, others do not. Another reason mail-order Social Security cards work so well is that most people do not carry

the card on their person. Most people just know their number. You should read the book *I.D. By Mail*, listed in the Recommended Reading chapter. This book contains the names and addresses of issuers of privately made identity cards. At least one issuer sells Social Security cards that resemble the real ones extremely well.

The next step involves creating your new Social Security number. Every state has a certain three-digit series that heads the number assigned to it. You can find out what these series are by consulting Appendix Three. For other information on Social Security numbers, see the book *Social Security Number Fraud*, listed in the Recommended Reading chapter.

Some other pointers are necessary. First, if you are playing the role of being a newcomer to the state, it will make no sense to the clerk if your Social Security number is one that state's residents would have. Secondly, if you choose a Social Security number from a large state, like New York, or California, the chances are much greater that you will accidentally use a real number issued to someone else. So pick a series from a small state. North and South Dakota come to mind, as well as Wyoming, Alaska, etc.

The next step is to get a second piece of identification that has a picture on it. An employee identification card will fill the bill. In Chapter 3, I discussed how you can get an excellent quality employee identification card from Positive I.D.

To make your employee identification card acceptable as hard identification, it should contain the following:

- Employee Name
- Employee Number
- Job Title
- Height and Weight
- Date of Issue
- Signature
- Company Name

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- Company Address
- Company Phone Number

To fill out your supply of secondary identification cards, I suggest a library card and especially a voter registration card. In many states a voter registration card is a very good looking piece of secondary identification. Another piece of secondary identification would be a student card from a local college. Register for one class, and you get the card. Now you are ready for the motor vehicle bureaucrats.

I recommend you first apply for a state identity card. This will give you a chance to see how the system works, and it will make it easier to get the drivers license later on. The reason for this is you will already have a piece of “their” identification and so you will face much less scrutiny. The state identity card is easier to get because it is often the first piece of state-issued identification a person gets. Before you go, sit down and review for hours all the details of your new identity. This way, when you go before the motor vehicle people, you will be calm and cool. Once you have passed this test the hardest hurdle is over.

Here are a few tips on getting your drivers license. While you are at the motor vehicle department getting the state identity card, ask for a copy of the drivers education manual. Make sure you study it so you can pass the test. Go back to the motor vehicle department two weeks later and take the written test. You will be given a learners permit. Practice driving the way you must for the road test. Under no circumstances take the road test in your own car. In many states the license plate and vehicle registration details on the car used for the driving test are recorded and go into your file. Needless to say, this provides a direct link between the old and new identity. The best way is to arrange for one lesson and the driving test to be taken in a car from a driving school.

I cannot overstress the need for you to be totally comfortable in your new identity. Remember that Americans move around a lot. If your new birth certificate says you are from Cincinnati, Ohio, you better know about Cincinnati chili. The best way to learn about your new hometown is to start with encyclopedia articles about the state and city. Then write to the state's tourist bureau for more information, or to the auto club. Another excellent way to start is by reading the newspaper from your new hometown. Often university libraries or larger public libraries have out-of-town newspapers. Know how the local sports teams are doing, the governor of the state, and who the mayor of your new hometown is. Never pick as your new background, places that are totally the opposite of yourself. The watchword of a new identity is credibility. If you are from Boston, do not pick a southern city as your new hometown. It just will not carry well. Stick with backgrounds you can assume with confidence.

We now turn to Social Security cards. Your bogus Social Security card was intended as only an interim step. You should get a real Social Security card for two reasons. The first is, if you intend to live and work under your new identity permanently, you will want to get your Social Security benefits. The second reason is a nonexistent Social Security number will eventually cause problems. As your employer sends in Social Security taxes to a nonexistent account, the computer will one day spit out that your number is invalid. Your employer will receive a letter asking him to obtain the correct number. Another problem is banks must obtain your number so they can report the interest you earn. This information is matched up with your income tax return. The last thing you need is trouble with the Internal Revenue Service.

Getting a Social Security number is now pretty simple. The federal government, in an attempt to give everyone a number,

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has made it easier for the privacy seeker. For a person to claim a dependant child under the age of five as an income tax deduction, the I.R.S. requires these children to have Social Security numbers. This means hundreds of thousands more applications for Social Security numbers are being made, especially early in the year, before tax time. Another loophole is that juveniles can apply by mail. No mention is made on your Social Security card of your age. So apply as a juvenile. Regardless of the method used in establishing your new identity, the procedure is the same. Simply take a blank copy of your new birth certificate, and using the methods referred to in the book *Countefeit ID Made Easy*, change the relevant data so you are seventeen or younger. Make sure the other information fits, such as the age of your "parents." Apply at the end of the month. Everything will appear in order and within six weeks you will have your new card. Later, when you are ready to collect your Social Security, you will get your "file error" corrected without any trouble.

The last piece of identification the identity changer may want is a passport. If you use the infant identity method in a state that does not cross-reference vital records, you will have no problem. The passport challenge is harder, but not impossible, if you have created a new person. The passport office is very aware of identity fraud, because over the years so many people have gotten false passports. I suggest you read the relevant sections of the aforementioned *Birth Certificate Fraud*.

Most passport applications are processed routinely unless the passport agency clerk has reason to suspect something's fishy. I recently applied for a passport under my own name at a passport agency. The clerk took my birth certificate, examined it, and wrote down the file and birth numbers from it on the back of the application. It was then returned to me. She then requested my drivers license as proof of identity.

Three days later I had my passport. There was not enough time for the passport office to have written to verify my birth certificate. If something had been suspect, they would have retained my birth certificate and returned it with the passport. After watching what the clerk wrote on the back of the form, a number of important points became clear.

First, *never* apply for a passport using the bogus birth certificate method at a post office or state court authorized to handle passport applications. These applications require that the birth certificate be submitted, and when the State Department people receive these applications, they are scrutinized.

Second, when you apply, make sure that your phony birth certificate is created on a state-issued birth form, and not one from a local county registrar. The reason for this is that county-issued birth documents usually only carry a local registrar's file number and not a state-issued birth number. Also, county certificates will often have a different format and seal. The state birth number is coded to indicate the year and county of birth. So when you create a new identity, let the county, date and type of birth remain the same. Change only your name and that of the parents. My suspicion is the passport agency people perform a quick check on the validity of a birth certificate by comparing those numbers on the certificate with a listing of representative numbers from all the states. The benefits to the passport office are clear. It allows them to catch most would-be phony passport holders, because they know nothing of this detail, at a very low cost. To verify every application on a timely basis would be very expensive, and delay passports for months.

Never apply for passports in certain cities. Examples would be New York, El Paso, Los Angeles, etc. These cities have had a lot of fraudulent applications, and they routinely verify a certain percentage of applications. Do not apply for a passport

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until you have been in your new identity for at least a year. If all of a passport applicant's identification is less than a year old it can be a tip-off to the clerk. If you do travel overseas on your new passport, take some precautions.

When a person's passport is lost or stolen, usually all of his other identification is stolen as well. If you request an emergency passport at the overseas consulate, the odds are very good that the consulate will wire your state of birth for a copy of your birth certificate. If you are using a real birth certificate, no problem. But if you are using the other method, you are in big trouble because your birth records are non-existent.

Take this precaution. Make a photocopy of your passport. Keep this with your new birth certificate. When you arrive at your destination, keep the passport photocopy, the birth certificate, and an identification card in a safe place. Should your passport be stolen, you can go to the consulate with this evidence and quickly get a new one. The consulate will send the details of your old passport and birth certificate/-identification to the passport agency. They will match the information given on the passport application. They will cancel your old passport and issue you a new one. The consul will compliment you on your foresight.

Your new identity is almost complete. However, a few areas remain to be dealt with. These are banking and credit, as well as employment.



Banking and Credit

Having a bank account is necessary for just about everyone. The proper set-up and use of a bank account is crucial for the identity changer. Your bank account can reveal the intimate details of your life, but the identity changer must have a checking and savings account because a person without them is suspect. Throughout this book, I have stressed the need to pay for certain things with money orders. The reason for this is a law called the Bank Secrecy Act which dictates the operation of every deposit-taking financial institution in the United States.

The Bank Secrecy Act says the details of every non-cash transaction through your bank account must be recorded and saved by the bank. Every check you write or deposit, any account transfer you make, must be recorded. In a matter of minutes any investigator can find out how, where and when you spend your money. A sloppy identity changer can destroy

the value of all his efforts by not paying close attention to details here.

Here is a simple example. One day you are short of cash. You write a check on the bank account in your real name and deposit it into the account in the name of your new identity. A record is generated in your new bank as to the writer, amount and bank and account number of the check you deposited. At the bank the check is drawn on, a record is created as to who you sent the check to. A clear link between the old and new identities has been established. Another example is paying with a check when you are requesting various states' birth certificates. The check you pay the fee with will be saved by your bank for a few years. An investigator who sees you have been sending checks to the vital statistics bureau would quickly conclude you are seeking a new identity.

The lesson here is: One screw-up can be fatal, especially if someone is looking for you. You should approach your bank account with a ten foot pole. Take the attitude that you want your bank account to reveal nothing about you. You must open the account properly. Go to a bank that is actively seeking new accounts. You will open your new account with cash, about \$300. You will have your drivers license, state identity card, and other identification at the ready. You make small talk with the clerk and in ten minutes it is over. After this initial contact you should never have to visit the branch again. You will do all your banking through the automated teller machine. You will never write a check on your checking account. When you need cash you will get it from the machine. You will pay your bills by making cash withdrawals and purchasing money orders at a store or post office. Never purchase a money order at your bank because often a notation will be put into the bank's records that you withdrew so much money and then purchased a money order. If you are working under your new identity, cash your paychecks at the bank they

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are drawn on and then deposit cash or a money order into your account.

You may be wondering why I recommend you treat your paychecks in this manner. When you opened your new account you gave as your employer the company front we set up earlier. You probably gave yourself a nice job title as well. If in reality you are working as a waiter, it will appear odd that you are depositing payroll checks from a local restaurant.

That next facet to banking is credit. After you have opened your new bank account, open an account at a local credit union. Most cities have open bond credit unions that allow anyone to join who lives in the area. Another way to qualify for credit union membership is to enroll for a class at a local college. Each month, make a deposit of one hundred dollars in to your credit union account. After you have \$500 in your account, approach the manager and tell him you would like to borrow \$500 dollars secured by your savings account. It will be easy, and once you have gotten the loan you will have a file at the local credit bureau. The information in that file will be the information you gave when you opened your credit union account, or on any additional paperwork required for the loan. More information on the credit system and how you should create your credit profile is available in the book *Credit: The Cutting Edge*.

Here is what you should not do. You will see advertisements that guarantee you will get a credit card in return for a secured deposit at their bank. The interest rates and annual fees on these cards are very high. They can also poison your credit record later on if you want to get unsecured credit cards or loans. Most bankers know who the banks are that issue these cards, and the bankers also know that the people who get credit cards this way have probably had credit problems in the past, and are poor credit risks. Some banks will automatically turn you down if you have one of these

accounts, even if all your payments are on time. The same is true for finance companies. A finance or loan company account on your credit record hurts you because bankers know people go to finance companies when they cannot borrow from their local bank. It will take longer, but go the credit union route to establish your credit. A good time to apply for credit cards is in early to middle November. Credit standards are relaxed so people can go into debt for Christmas.

Once you have a credit card, remember that it provides yet another avenue to learn much about you. Only use your credit card for transactions that you feel are harmless if someone else knew about them. For transactions that you want to keep private, take a cash advance on your credit card and pay for the item or service with the money. After you get your first credit card, apply for another one every two months. Within a year, you will have unlimited credit.



Employment

Employment can be a real problem for the privacy seeker who wants to work under his new identity. By using the methods in this book your new identity will be solid, but employment requires additional backup.

Look in the phone book for a secretarial service and call a few. Your story will be that you run a business out of your home and you would like a better image. A secretarial service can rent you a private telephone line which they will answer in your company name, and also receive and forward company mail for you. This is all arranged on a monthly basis for a modest fee. This allows you to present a picture of yourself as a gainfully employed person when you open a bank account, or apply for credit or a job.

If you are looking for relatively simple low level work, your cover company will do just fine. When you fill out the employment application you will list as your past employer

your cover company along with the telephone number and the name of your "supervisor." When your potential employer calls your secretarial service they will answer in the company name and tell the caller that the "supervisor" is out. They will take a message and have your "supervisor" return the call. Of course, *you* will actually be returning the call, playing the role of the supervisor. For most low level ordinary jobs, this is all the reference checking that is done. However, you must once again pay close attention to the details. Make sure the secretarial service has the name of the supervisor. The day after you put in a job application you must be sure to call the secretarial service every hour to get the messages.

For the identity changer who is seeking higher level work, much more is needed, because a background check is often required. This may be because bonding is necessary, or a security clearance is required. One book on alternate identity suggests if a job requires any kind of background check, the new identity seeker must forget it. This is false. In only a few cases, such as a job requiring a Defense Department security clearance, is this true. The best way to illustrate this is to show why a new identity changer will be caught if he tries to get a job requiring a Defense Department security clearance.

To obtain a Defense Department security clearance, a person must complete a series of forms that details one's work history, personal life history and financial status. In addition, waivers must be signed giving the government access to your medical records and the applicant must provide copies of his birth certificate, drivers license, and Social Security card. For the sake of argument we will assume that you have been living under your new identity for two years, and that you have made legitimate references in the matters of employment and personal friends. We will further say that you have never been arrested and fingerprinted.

The first step in any security clearance investigation is what is known as a passive or negative investigation. Essentially, this involves making sure that you are not a criminal and have not been convicted of a crime. Your name and personal particulars will be run through the FBI computer database. You will come back clean. The next part of the passive investigation will involve running a credit check on you through a credit bureau, reviewing your medical records, and verifying your birth certificate. We will also assume that you have used a real birth certificate to create your new identity. So your birth certificate will check out. They will also check with the IRS to make sure you paid your taxes last year. This will conclude the passive investigation which you will pass with no trouble. The next stage is the field investigation.

On the paperwork that you filled out you will have had to give the names of various people you have known over the years who can vouch for you. This is where your new identity will be revealed. When FBI agents talk to your references, the people will say good things about you. But the question the FBI man will always ask is, "About how long have you known John Doe?" Everyone will answer about two years. This "break" will arouse suspicion at once. The next thing the agent will do is check his sources again. Your credit file will be about two years old, and so will your employment history. A more detailed check with the IRS and Social Security people will reveal only two years of tax returns filed under your Social Security number. The warning bells will sound and a possible counter espionage investigation will begin.

The problem with any new identity is it had to be set up at some point in time. This is the reason the Soviet Union will take the risk of trying to bribe an American who works in a sensitive position, instead of getting a KGB agent hired at a defense plant. But the good news is: a careful identity changer can pass almost all *passive* investigations, especially those

done at the state level. For example, many states require that child care workers, school teachers, etc., have background checks. States do not have access to the databanks the federal government does, and usually do only passive investigations. Usually, fingerprints are not required. However, there is a way around the fingerprint problem if you have been arrested. It is possible for any person to have additional sets of fingerprints. The technique is described in the book *How Intelligence Agents Change Their Fingerprints*, listed in the Recommended Reading chapter. However, I suggest you use an alternative set of fingerprints even if you have never been arrested. The reason is later on, if you decide to go back to your true identity and are fingerprinted for any reason, your real name will come back as being an alias. This can cause a lot of problems for you, as well as the obvious fact that it destroys the value of your new identity.

You can safely apply for almost all state government jobs, and most routine federal civil service positions. You can also apply for jobs that require routine bonding such as bank tellers. The places to avoid are working for defense contractors or police agency jobs. But you can work for a company that does defense work, if it is in a non-defense subsidiary. Only the people who work in the defense part of the company must have clearance.

Another remaining problem is the new identity seeker who has university degrees and wishes to continue working in his field. The problem is that your educational records are in your old name. There are a variety of ways around this problem. The first way is to take your university transcripts and blot out the old data and insert your new name. When you apply for the job, submit your transcript with a resumé. Most of the time, when an employer gets a transcript with resumé, all he does is call or write the former employer. A good employment reference gets you the job with no further checking. The

problem with this is many larger companies require potential new hires to sign a transcript release form, allowing the employer to write to the university directly and request your transcript. One way around this is to base your new identity upon someone who has your kind of qualifications.

The first step is to contact the alumni associations of some universities and order a copy of their alumni book for whatever department or division you would have graduated from. The alumni director will have the name, addresses, class year and degree/major of the graduate. You could then call potential prospects and tell them you are calling from the alumni association and are updating your files. You would then get the birth date and former student number of the individual. After you have done this, you can write for his transcript. You can then use his name and background as a basis for your new identity. But you must use some caution.

First, make sure the individual is not living in your state or the future state you will live in. Make sure you do not apply for a professional license in the state he is in. Always reverse the order of the middle and first names of the individual. After that, you would go about as before, building up the identification using the techniques already described. The obvious question is: will the computer realize that there are two of "you?" The answer is no, because you are only using his name and a few other particulars as a shell. By changing the order of the names, as well as having a different address, Social Security number and other data, you are an entirely different person to the computer. Think of how many "John Millers" have graduated in Electrical Engineering from a large university in a given year. Now think of how many John Millers who are Electrical Engineers have the same birth date. Quite a few. As long as you are only using his identity as a "shell" and are living in another state, you will have no

problems. More on this is available in the book *How To Steal A Job*, listed in the Recommend Reading chapter.

Another option for the professional is to use your company front and run an employment ad in the local paper for the type of job you want. In the ad you will request that the applicant submit his transcripts with the resumé. In the ad, offer a salary at least twenty percent higher than normal for that job. Within two weeks you will be flooded with replies. I suggest that in the long term you get new, legitimate degrees in your new name if at all possible. There are many options, be it night school, correspondence courses, etc. Or you could use your purloined transcript to get admitted into graduate school and earn a real higher degree.



The Birth Certificate Process

The birth certificate is the foundation document for a person's identity in any country. In previous chapters, we have examined how a birth certificate acts as a "breeder" document to obtain other identification, but we have never really looked at the whole system of birth records in the United States.

The United States is unique among nations because our birth recording system is highly decentralized and is done on many levels. There are a minimum of four types of birth records issued in the United States today. In some states the authorities have attempted to make it more difficult for a new identity seeker to obtain state maintained birth records. But often in these same states the other three types of birth records are equally acceptable, provided they are presented in the proper context.

This chapter will examine the various birth records, who maintains them, and their overall acceptability.

Today most people are born in a hospital. I say most, but it certainly is not universal everywhere. In some states over half of all births occur outside the hospitals. We will use the hospital birth as an example, because it allows us to see the birth recording process at work in all its facets.

When a child is born at a hospital, the attending physician or nurse will fill out a short piece of paper with the time and sex and type of birth. Later on, after everything is finished in the recovery room, the doctor will fill out the particular hospital's standard birth certificate form. This form will have the name of the hospital, the location of the hospital, and some very basic information on it. The parents' names and ages at the time of birth are shown, along with the child's name, sex, and time of birth. At the bottom are places for the doctor's signature and the signature of a witness. The hospital's own seal will usually be on this form.

Once this form is completed, a photocopy is made of it and notarized, and the original is given to the parents. At this point in time, this hospital-generated birth certificate is the only legal record of this child's birth. Later on the hospital will send the notarized photocopy of the birth record to the county recorder's office. Upon receipt of this notarized copy of the hospital birth record, the county recorder will enter the birth record into the birth records book for the county for that month. Then, in some places, the county recorder will send out a state issued birth certificate to the parents. On a monthly or quarterly basis the county recorder will forward to the central state vital statistics bureau a listing of all births that occurred during that period. So, for a period of many months, the infant would not have his birth record on file at the central state vital statistics office. The notarized photocopy of the hospital birth record is generally destroyed by the local registrar once the birth has been entered into the records book. Often there is a

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delay of up to a month before even the local registrar enters the birth into the record book.

What should be clear here is that almost everyone born in a hospital actually has two birth certificates, each of which has legal status. The hospital record of birth is the only birth record the person has until such time as the county recorder enters the birth. Very often what mail-order companies sell as birth certificates are hospital type birth records. Many people never get a state issued birth record, and the hospital issued record is their birth record. This can occur in many ways. Any doctor or nurse or, in some states, midwives who regularly assist in births will have a supply of these hospital type birth certificates. They will also possess their own stamp or embossing tool to certify the document. This is particularly true in rural southern states.

Let's say a midwife has just attended the birth with her assistant. After the birth is done, she would sit down and complete the certificate with all the pertinent details. After her assistant or other witness signed it, she would then stamp or seal it and place her signature on the form. Then often she will tell the newborn's parents that they need to take this certificate to the local county registrar as soon as possible so the birth is registered with the state. Oftentimes even when a doctor or nurse attends a home birth, and under most state laws doctors and nurses are required to send birth notification to the county registrar, it does not happen. This is such a common occurrence that you will find that most state and federal government agencies will accept a hospital birth record in lieu of a state issued birth certificate.

Now, before you run out and purchase a hospital style birth certificate to build a new identity around, let's look at some subtle facts here. First of all, a person only receives a hospital birth record *once* — at the time of birth. Generally hospitals

dispose of their copies of the birth record after the birth record has been registered with the country clerk. Most hospitals will keep a list of all babies born there, as often doctors and midwives do, but the actual paperwork is disposed of after a year or so.

If you were to present a freshly minted and sealed hospital birth record to a motor vehicle department bureaucrat, his suspicion would be aroused. Because that birth certificate should be at least *sixteen* years old, it should look it. Hospitals cannot issue duplicate copies of the birth record because the original is no longer available. Almost all federal government identity bureaucrats know this and so do most state identity bureaucrats. If you wish to use such a certificate, we will illustrate a way around this problem later on.

The third type of birth certificate is the privately issued document maintained by individuals. Under certain circumstances these are also acceptable as legal proof of birth. How are these certificates generated? Often times families will keep a family record book, many times it is located inside a large family Bible. These were, and still are, quite common in rural areas of the Midwest and the South.

Inside the family record book are birth certificates that can be filled out and signed upon the birth of a child. Often families do just that, particularly if it is an area where the birth may not be registered. One of these certificates, if obviously old and folded and supported by other evidence of identity, will often be accepted as a valid birth certificate. In fact, many people get delayed birth certificates years later based on these records.

The other type of birth certificate common in the United States is the religious baptismal certificate. In areas where the Catholic church is very strong, or other churches that widely practice infant baptism, a baptismal certificate is accepted as readily as a state-issued birth record. In fact, most states and

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the federal government will accept a valid baptismal certificate as proof of birth.

In order for a baptismal certificate to be accepted as valid, it must have been issued within a few months of the child's birth, it must show the parents' names, the child's birth date and birthplace, the date of baptism, and show the name and location of the church, and bear the signature and either seal or stamp of the church official issuing the document. But I must caution you again before you go out and purchase a baptismal certificate. Your baptismal certificate should be quite old. After all, it was issued a few months after you were born. A new looking baptismal certificate will definitely arouse questions you do not want.

The new identity seeker has a number of choices when it comes to selecting a new birth record. However, some birth records are better than others in certain situations. When a phony birth record is used, the best situation is to use one that cannot be traced. Here is where hospital and church birth documents have a definite advantage. If you use a hospital birth record from a hospital that has long since closed, the ability of anyone to disprove your record's veracity is next to impossible. The same can be said of deceased midwives or doctors. The same is true if you "become" a pastor in another name and issue your own baptismal certificates. Over the years many churches and parishes have closed down or burned down and the records lost. If you claim a baptismal certificate from one of these services no one can say otherwise. A state issued birth certificate can always be traced to the originator of the record.

All state-issued birth certificates that come from a state's central vital statistics office will contain a state birth number. These numbers are important to be aware of because the Federal Government, in an attempt to reduce passport and

Social Security number fraud, has trained its people to recognize these numbers.

First, a state birth number will not appear on a certificate issued by local county registrar. If a person applies for a passport, one of the first checks the Passport Clerk makes is to look at where the state birth certificate was issued. If it came from the state vital statistics office, it should have a birth number on it, and this number is written down on the application form. If it was issued by a county registrar, the certificate will only carry a local registrar's file number on it. Any mismatch will immediately alert the Passport Clerk to possible identity fraud and cause her to retain the certificate.

The United States uses a common system of Birth Certificate numbers due to an agreement reached among the states years ago. It is arranged thusly:

First digit:	always a "1" — shows birth in USA
Next two digits:	represent state of birth: "34" is Ohio
Next two digits:	represents year of birth: "75" is birth in 1975
Last six digits:	state file number, random sequential number

For example: 1/34-75-041171
Born in the state of Ohio (34)
Born in year 1975
State File #041171

More information on state birth numbers can be found in the book *Understanding U.S. Identity Documents*.



Document Certification

Everyone always wants *certified* copies of documents. This can be a problem for the identity changer, particularly where it relates to birth certificates. There is often a lot of confusion over the difference between certification and notarization. A *certified* document is one where the *original* issuer of the document attests to its accuracy and validity. When the local county registrar affixes either his stamp or seal and signature onto the document, he is certifying its contents. His certification is saying that the information contained on the front of the document is the same as that contained in the county birth records book.

A notarization seal is something different altogether. If I make a copy of a document and get it notarized, all the notary public's seal and signature means is that the photocopy is a true and accurate photocopy of the actual original document provided. The notary public's seal does not attest to the

accuracy or validity of the information contained on the original. However, there is a lot of confusion on this matter among the identity bureaucrats themselves. A properly notarized copy of a birth record or baptismal certificate will usually get you past all state-level identity bureaucrats. The only person who can certify a document is the original issuer of the record. However, this opens up a myriad of opportunities.

What should be clear is that if you are going to present a hospital birth record or baptismal record as your proof of birth, you must present either a certified or notarized copy of the original, or suitably age the original document so that it appears to have been issued years ago. A similar procedure can be done with state issued birth certificates as well.

To certify your own documents, you will require a stamp that will have the word "Certified" on it and an embossing tool. You can purchase both of these from office supply or legal supply stores. You will also want an adjustable date stamp. Let's say you are going to certify a hospital type birth certificate as a midwife or doctor. You would purchase a hospital type certificate through the mail. Once it arrived you would go to a do-it-yourself copy shop and make three or four photocopies of the certificate. You would want to add a heading to the top of the certificate in bold type or with transfer lettering. The heading might say "Mary McMurdo, Licensed Midwife" or "Dr. Jekyll, M.D., Ob. Gyn." Once this is done, run off the copy onto parchment stock. I prefer blue or green. Once you have done this, you would then enter in the birth particulars. Remember, at the time of your birth, these things were often done by hand or on a manual typewriter. Once you have done this, you would add the witness signatures. Now you are ready to certify the document.

To certify the document, you would take your stamp that says "Certified" and stamp the document somewhere around

the lower center or edge. A nice added touch is a bold signature line underneath the “Certified” stamp. You would sign on this line, and then use your date stamp underneath your signature. The coup de grace comes when you take your embossing tool and emboss right around the “certified” stamp and signature. Your embosser should have the initials of the “midwife” or “doctor.” You must now age this document so it appears to be old and authentic.

An old document would have many creases across it from having been folded many times. The paper will feel a bit rough and the color will be a bit faded. The edges will be bit rough and possibly a little frayed. How can we get this look? I call it the shoe technique. Get a small plastic sandwich bag. Carefully fold up your certificate, information side inward, and place it inside the bag. You should fold it small enough so that it will fit comfortably inside your shoe. Wear the certificate alternately between your heel and your toes on both feet for about a week. At the end of the week, remove the certificate from the bag. It will look quite elderly. Another helpful hint is to place it folded inside a large book, perhaps at night when you are asleep. Anyone who now sees this certificate will believe it is old.

This method of do-it-yourself certification will also work on church-issued baptismal certificates, and even on state-issued birth certificates. The baptismal certificates are the easiest to get. Simply visit any church or religious supply store and look for their baptismal certificates. Try to select one that carries the information on it mentioned earlier. The next step is to decide which church it will be from. You are best advised to use an out of state church that no one in your area would be familiar with. Generally, the baptismal certificate will have enough artwork on it so that you must not add any. For good measure, you might wish to run it off onto parchment stock at a quick stop copy shop.

Once this is done, you would type the data onto the certificate and then do your embossing and certifying job, except in this case your embossing tool might have the church initials on it. You may wish to add the church name and address to the top of the certificate as well. As added security you could pick a church that had closed or burned down years ago. Once again, the document would need to be aged in the way previously described.

Another option for baptismal certificate generation is to become a "minister" with a mail-order church. A little explanation is necessary. There are many "churches" that exist in name only. These churches exist primarily by selling new memberships to wanna-be pastors and ministers. By purchasing one of these church charters the holder can then take a vow of poverty to the "church" and not pay income tax on his salary. These churches will also sell you seals, certification stamps and blank baptismal certificates. You could purchase a church charter and set it up in a mail forwarding service in another city. Then you could issue official certified baptismal certificates in the church name.

Another advantage to this route is that you can now issue *certified copies* of your baptismal certificates, and not just worn originals. You would simply run off a copy of the baptismal certificate, minus your church certification, onto a larger sheet of paper. Then you would apply your church stamps and certification seal to the copy. This will then make this copy acceptable to any bureaucrat.

You can make your own certified copies of actual state-issued birth records this same way. The first step is to write and obtain an actual birth certificate from the state of interest. This will allow you to see what type of paper is used and the certificate layout. Some states issue certificates on intaglio printed paper with fancy borders. Others will still issue plain paper certificates, particularly if a birth certificate comes from

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a local county registrar. Once you have the state certificate, make a good copy of it onto a sheet of plain paper. Carefully white out all of the information on it and remove all state seals and embossing. One way to reduce the amount of covering up you must do is to request an *uncertified* copy of a birth record, in addition to a certified one.

Once the certificate has been cleaned up, you would then run it off onto parchment stock, or even onto intaglio bordered paper. After this is done, you would then type on the new data and then certify the certificate. But for this your embossing tool might have the initials DVS or OVS on it. These initials stand for the Department of Vital Statistics or Office of Vital Statistics. On the inside you would do pretty much as before with the “Certified” stamp and signature line, except underneath the signature line you might bold in “UNDER MY HAND, DEPUTY REGISTRAR” and then stamp the date below it. Any bureaucrat presented with this certificate will believe it is the real thing. He will feel for the raised embossed seal and feel it and see the certification stamp and assume that it is the real McCoy.



Child Support Laws

In the summer of 1989 the federal government reached an agreement with most of the states regarding child welfare laws. This agreement stated that the federal government would be willing to help enforce state child support orders with information available in federal data banks only if the states agreed to attempt to obtain the Social Security numbers of both parents upon the birth of a child. When the parents are asked to complete the paperwork for the state birth registration, they will find spaces for them to fill in their respective Social Security numbers. Everyone who has a child born will have their Social Security numbers recorded and easily available to any state bureaucrat. Soon afterwards, states would probably begin to assign birth certificate numbers or order birth records according to the parent's Social Security number.

How would the federal government use this information? The first step would be for each state to set up a directorate in their child welfare division that would link together electronically all court orders that found a particular parent delinquent with a computerized database of state birth registrations. This would enable an individual state to see if a delinquent parent in their state had a child born in that state, but more importantly, if a child was born in this state to the delinquent parent, to obtain the parent's Social Security number. Obviously, if the delinquent parent is out of the state, the state cannot do anything.

This is where the federal government would get involved. The states would send at regular intervals a computer tape with all delinquent parents' names and Social Security numbers to Washington, D.C. The federal government would then compile a master file for all 50 states. This master file of names and Social Security numbers would then be checked against a myriad of federal databanks: The IRS, Social Security, FAA, etc. When a "hit" was made, the federal government would send whatever relevant information a particular database had on that person back to the concerned state to assist in the child support order enforcement.

For example, many people are weekend private pilots. When you apply for your student pilot license, you are asked to furnish your Social Security number along with other personal data. Under this new system these records are now available for use by the state in finding you. But FAA records have nothing to do with child support laws, until now.

When the state receives back the information from the federal government, it can then ask the court in another state to enforce its child support order. Eventually this could expand to include non-government databases. For example, many states regard themselves or the ex-spouse as a Creditor for delinquent child support payments. Many states have

implemented "Family Maintenance Enforcement Programs" that legalize this view. It would only be natural then for the states to suggest that this list be given to the large national credit bureaus to cross-check against their files, and then supply whatever information they contain to the state.

I should point out why the Social Security number is so important. In an earlier chapter I explained it, but it is worth repeating. The only truly unique identifier a person has is his Social Security number. There are many people with the same first, middle and last names, who even have the same birth-date. But unless an error has been made, a properly issued Social Security number is unique. As Americans, we have always prided ourselves on the fact that we need carry no official government identity papers. But the government has done an end run around this by encouraging states and other federal government agencies to request Social Security numbers from the public, even when they have no legal right to do so!

The danger is that over the long term we will become a society where you are possibly guilty until the computer clears your name and number. If present trends continue, we will routinely be screened for being delinquent parents every time we use a state or federal government service. This already occurs in West Germany. All West Germans must carry a magnetically striped, optically readable national identity card. This card is checked against a variety of databases constantly.

When a person moves, they must register their address with the police. When a German applies for a passport, numerous databases are consulted before it is issued. If someone owes back taxes, a passport can be denied. A person behind on a loan payment can also be denied a passport. The question is, do we want the same system to exist here?

There is also a very real danger when large-scale computer matching is done. Most people are nonchalant about these

developments, until a mistake occurs that affects them. For example, let's assume a person made an error in another state when they filled out a form, and wrote your Social Security number on it. Let's also assume this person's name is somewhat similar to yours. Finally, we will assume that this person is late on child support payments, and an enforcement order has been made against them.

When the federal government matches up its files against the state files, they will show that you are this person owing the child support money and that you are using an alias, your real name. The information will be sent to your state. All of a sudden you could find your bank account frozen, your credit rating destroyed and a lot of other things happening, all from a mistake. These types of incidents already occur with some frequency.

That was a hypothetical incident, but there are true cases. In the fall of 1989, it was revealed that the then director of the Social Security Administration had allowed credit card companies to routinely check the name and Social Security numbers of credit card applicants against the files of the Social Security Administration. If a Social Security number did not match, the credit card company would then deny the customer credit. As we know, often government files are filled with errors. But because of the large scale computer matching, these errors can cost someone the ability to get credit. But even worse was the fact that we had private, commercial concerns being allowed to access confidential information in a government database. This was one incident where public ire was aroused and the practice stopped.



Limiting IRS Third Party Reports

The Internal Revenue Service was one of the first government agencies to make extensive use of the Social Security number. As everyone now knows, your Social Security number is the key linchpin in the taxation system. This allows the various income and interest earnings statements about you to be matched up positively. It also allows state income tax departments to receive data from the IRS according to your Social Security number, and arrange their files accordingly.

The threat to privacy from the IRS is now coming from what are called "Third Party" reports. The number of people who must file such reports is increasing rapidly. Third party reports have in the past been filed by your employer, when he sends in your earnings slip to the IRS, people who have had a large capital gain on the sale of property or investments, and people with large amounts of interest income. The IRS has

now radically expanded the set of third party reports. Anyone who has an interest bearing bank account is now subject to these reports. Anyone who wins any prize money in a contest or event over a nominal amount is subject to these reports. And of course, there is the 10,000 dollar rub. Any cash transactions of 10,000 dollars or more must be reported.

On all these third party reports one must provide a name and Social Security number. Failure to comply can result in withholding of a certain percentage of interest or income. Even the publisher of this book requires my Social Security number or he must withhold 20% of my royalties. Mind you, the groups that must complete these reports have no choice. The government will very quickly audit and otherwise harass an institution that will not comply.

So the question is, how can one avoid being caught in the world of third party reports? There is nothing wrong with arranging your affairs to create as little a paper trail as possible. On bank accounts you have some options. You could open a non-interest-bearing checking account. This will not trigger any third party reports. For your savings account, you could open an account in a Canadian bank. You will get an automated teller card that will allow you to access your Canadian account in the United States, and you could transfer funds into your US checking account that way. On your income tax return, you would then enter your interest income from your Canadian savings account on the "other income" line of the 1040. You are still playing by the rules, but on your own terms. Or you could do away with US banking altogether. The global networks of automated teller machines allow a person to access bank accounts in Canada, or even Australia, right at home. If you were to go the foreign banking route, you would use the following procedure, which I will describe using Canada as an example:

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You would open a Canadian bank account, using the services of a Canadian mail forwarding service to act as your return address. (I suggest you read *Reborn In Canada, Second Edition*, available from Loompanics Unlimited.) You would open a savings and checking account, and a U.S. dollar checking account, if you so desired. When you are paid in the United States, you would cash your checks at the bank they are issued against. You would then purchase a money order (not at that bank) for the amount you want to deposit into your Canadian bank accounts. You would then send the money order to your Canadian bank. I am against the use of checks, and suggest you use money orders to pay your bills. But for the odd check, such as to purchase something by mail, you can open a U.S. dollar checking account at a Canadian bank or credit union. These checks you can write in the U.S. like any other. Similar arrangements can be made with banks in other countries, but Canada is the nearest, and all bank accounts are insured, as in the United States.

Financial privacy bears a few more statements. U.S. Supreme Court decisions have basically said that a person has no right and expectation of privacy in banking transactions. Deposit slips, checks, transfer orders, etc. are all open documents, and allow a paper trail to be quickly made of a person's life. Always use the following procedures. Decide that no one will learn anything about you from your bank account. This is accompanied by cashing your paychecks at the bank they are written on, and making your deposits and withdrawals in cash. Pay all your bills with money orders from private companies or post office money orders. You should never write a check on your checking account except when taking cash out of the bank.

Third party reports can be reduced if you understand them in the first place. Of course, you will always be subject to at least one of them, your earnings from your work, the W-2, but

the others can be eliminated through careful planning. You should still declare your interest income and pay the taxes, but you will do so without creating yet another privacy destroying paper trail.



Driving Records Databases

Nothing symbolizes Americans' desire for freedom more than the automobile. The government has used this fact to take steps toward creating another database of information on the people. Unlike people in most other countries, most Americans at some point in their lives will either own a car or obtain a drivers license. The federal government would like to be able to tap this wealth of information the states have. But generally, they lack the jurisdiction to do so for the average person. So once again, we have the interstate compact as the vehicle to give the federal government what they want.

The interstate agreement in this case is called the National Drivers Register. This registry involves about 40 states. It contains the names of people who have had their drivers licenses revoked. It allows a member state to run a check on the database to see if a license applicant has been denied a license. If so, the new state will refuse to issue one. The

database is designed so a person who reverses the order of their first and middle name is caught. The database contains a person's name, birthdate, Social Security number (if available), former state's license number, and reason for license denial and/or revocation.

Before we look at where this could go, we should look at the implications of these interstate agreements. When a state enters into an interstate exchange agreement, it is allowing the data it collected on an individual to be used for other purposes than for which it was collected. The National Drivers Register is a good example. Not only do other states use it, but so do insurance companies, credit companies, and the federal government. The real problem is, once such a database is compiled it takes on a life of its own, and it exists in a sort of legal limbo. The information contained within it is no longer legally subject to a particular state's laws on dissemination, nor is it subject to any meaningful federal control. The Federal Aviation Administration checks the National Drivers Register to match the names and Social Security numbers of the pilots it licenses against the names in the register that have drunk driving convictions. Because the database is not under federal jurisdiction, this information could then be passed on to others.

Where could this end up? Canada is a good example. All of the provinces of Canada and the Canadian federal government are working on creating a single master file database on all drivers within the country. The way it is being compiled is that all provinces are computerizing their drivers records back so many years. Then these tapes are sent to the federal government, who then compiles a master list, cross indexing it so that they can chronologically trace a driver's history. A person who had a license in Ontario and then later moved to Alberta and got a license there would never shed his Ontario

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computer file. The national database would always show the old Ontario license number and driver records.

The next step will be to do the same with vehicle registrations. Once the master file was completed it would be interfaced with the drivers license file. Together the new database could not only permanently display your drivers license history throughout the years, but also what kind of cars you owned over the years — forever. The next step would be to get the various states to agree on a common format of the drivers license number. Odds are this format would be derived from the applicant's Social Security number. Whenever a new license was issued, or an old one updated, it would be entered into this database. The database would be located alongside the National Crime Computer in Canada, and when an officer pulled a car over and ran a license check, he could call up a vastly greater amount of information on the driver than is possible now.

The ultimate use of computerized databases results in something known as Computer Vector Tracing. In the next chapter we will examine Computer Vector Tracing, and most importantly, how the privacy seeker can defeat it, or at the very least mitigate its impact.



Computer Vector Tracing

Computer Vector Tracing, in brief, involves the use of all computerized databases in an aggressive constant online authorization process similar to credit card authorization. Except here, what we are authorizing is people, not financial transactions. Essentially what we are saying is, until the computer replies with the answer “no trace” or “no file,” a cloud of suspicion remains. But computer vector tracing then goes one step further. It allows for the creation of a file on anyone who interacts with the database. This file then acts as a chronological trace of that person’s movements and activities.

Already the FBI has made such proposals. An internal study done by the FBI in 1987 asked the question of why not, because the technology is already available. It was only strong negative reaction from Congress that put a damper on their plans. How would it work? Well, the first step is that the idea must be sold to industry and the public.

The way it will be sold to industry and the public is as a way to cut down on crime and losses. Potentially any industry and group that maintains a computerized database could participate. Like automobile rental companies. Auto rental companies will be told that by linking their computers into the network, they can instantaneously receive any pertinent negative information about a renter. When you were giving the rental clerk at the computer your drivers license and other information, after it was all entered on the computer, he would send it to the national computer in Washington. This information would be checked against the National Crime Computer, the National Driver Registry, and other like databases. A few seconds later relevant information would be displayed on the auto rental agent's computer screen. Depending on what was relayed, the car rental could be declined. The dangerous part is what you will not see. A record of inquiry will be created at the National Computer, and if you never had a file before, one will be created on you. Every time you interacted with a database that was linked to this computer file, your personal file would be updated. For example, school boards will be told it is to their advantage to join because then non-custodial parents who take their children could be caught. So your local principal could be helping to create files on you. Airline companies could do the same, and insurance companies as well. The list goes on and on. Your life will become an open book.

What is even worse is that because this National Database will be created out of a number of interstate agreements, and because of loopholes in federal government data privacy legislation, there will be almost no controls over who has access to this data. This will be combined with what is called "free text association" in computer jargon. Free text association allows a database user to enter a name or a location, or an abstract, and then to retrieve any information

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Computer Vector Tracing
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under that heading. If someone thinks you drive blue 1983 cars, this could be put into the computer, and the names of all people in the database who do the same will be forthcoming. Further narrowing by location and other data would eventually identify the person or persons that, say, a car company wanted to market to. Rest assured that under such a system the information flow will be two-way.

As usual we are brought to the question of what can a person do about this. For privacy, it means using the methods outlined before, but with a twist. It may very well be in the future that it is impossible to avoid this datafile creation. If these proposals come to pass, sooner or later everyone will have a constantly updated file. Achieving privacy in this type of situation boils down to once again controlling the data that is stored there. You will make a conscious decision as to what the various databases will contain. But before we go on to that, we need to take a quick look at private databases and how Uncle Sam uses them to check up on people.



Private Computer Databases

Private databanks present the most dangerous threat to privacy. Because they are private creations, the few government laws that exist protecting government created databases do not apply here. The only substantial legislation dealing with private databases concerns credit bureaus, and their obligation to allow people to see their credit report and have inaccurate information removed from it. In Chapter One, I discussed many of these private databases in detail, particularly the nationwide credit bureaus and the Medical Information Bureau run by the insurance companies. My goal here is to show how these files can be used to create a total picture of a person.

There are additional private databases where significant information is stored on most people. One such database is available on cd-rom. It is called People Finder. Each disc covers a different portion of the United States and includes

names, birth dates, drivers license numbers and addresses. It is available from NIC Law Enforcement Supply to the general public. Another is the City Directory. Most people have no idea what it is. The City Directory is not the telephone directory. It is compiled by a private company by door to door canvassing. Its pages contain a humungous amount of information. Usually a complete listing under a person's name contains their address, what type of accommodation it is (house or apartment), if the person is a boarder, the person's employer and job description, and telephone number. If someone wants to find out if a person is new at an address, a separate section called "new neighbors" identifies this with an asterisk next to the name at a particular address. All of this information is obtainable by just knowing the name of a person. Even a person who has gone to the trouble of getting an unlisted telephone number can have their privacy disrupted. A parallel book called a "Criss Cross" directory, gives all telephone numbers according to address in a given city. An unlisted number can be found here quickly.

In many cities a new type of database is being compiled by rental landlords. These files contain the names and personal data on all renters, and the landlords could assign negative statements to certain tenants. A tenant who complained too much could find out that he or she is no longer able to rent living accommodations easily.

Government agencies can and do make use of private databases. The IRS is notorious for such practices. An example of this is called "Computer Profiling." If the IRS wanted to study tax avoidance of people with incomes over \$30,000 a year, they could subscribe to credit bureau services that will profile such neighborhoods in a given city. The next step would then be to merge this information with that contained in the City Directory. This will then create a very large database with most of the required information on an

individual. The merged database will contain the name, address, home phone number, and employer of every person. To get the other personal data, such as birthdate and Social Security number, the IRS would run this list against its taxpayer files for the area. The resulting matches will show who has filed a return and who possibly has not.

Of course such a procedure would also produce a significant number of errors. People who are not required to file tax returns, or those who use a permanent address in another state might find themselves the recipients of a computer generated deficiency notice. But the real danger is that all persons will be routinely subjected to such computer scrutiny without their knowledge or consent. Once again this practice will be sold to the public as a way to crack down on tax cheats and big-time drug dealers. The reality is that no drug dealers will be caught through this approach and only a very few tax cheats. But we will all have our privacy reduced once more.

The use of these private data banks by government agencies will continue to proliferate. Eventually a profile of most citizens would be compiled by merging all of the major private databases and running this information against what is contained in a particular government agency's file. The private data snoops are only too happy to help; for them it is a matter of financial gain and nothing more. What is the alternative? Read on.



Vital Records Cross-Referencing and The New Identity Seeker

A specter is haunting new identity seekers... the specter of Vital Records Cross-Referencing. The mere mention of it causes those who are interested in creating a new identity to quake in their boots. The bureaucrats have tried to propose it as a way to end the "problem" of people assuming new identities. Many of those interested in acquiring a second identity automatically assume that widespread vital records cross-referencing means the end of starting over with a "clean slate." Not so at all. We shall see that vital records cross-referencing, when it is done on a widespread basis, is a failure in a nation of our size, and it only affects a certain subset of new identity seekers.

To begin with, vital records cross-referencing will only affect those new identity seekers who must have a verifiable state-issued birth certificate. This is only a small proportion of the new identity seeking population. New identity seekers who have stayed current on the literature realize that most

Americans are issued two legally valid birth documents. One is the hospital record of birth, which is submitted to the state to allow for the creation of the state-issued birth record. If a state-issued birth record was no longer available for certain individuals, a savvy new identity seeker could create and “age” a hospital birth record.

The basic fact is that a new identity built around a counterfeit birth record, properly backed up by supportive identification, will suffice in most cases. The new identity seeker can then obtain all of the state-issued identification needed — drivers license, credit cards, state identity card, voter registration card, etc. After a year or so, a passport can even be obtained. So the first question for the new identity seeker, when cross-referencing becomes commonplace, is: must my birth record be verifiable? In most cases, the answer is no.

For those who must have a verifiable birth record, we need to examine how a potential vital records cross-referencing system would or would not work in the United States. Consider the facts. The United States is composed of fifty states, Washington, D.C., and five external territories. All of these constituent components, as well as local jurisdictions within them, are able to issue certified birth and death records that are accepted in any other jurisdiction. Each of these jurisdictions has its own procedures and requirements for issuing vital records. In total there are over 6,000 offices authorized to handle and manufacture these records. In some areas these records are considered public documents open to all, in others these records are closed and available only to state workers and other authorized personnel.

In the simple mind of the bureaucrat, nationwide cross-referencing would work like this: When a person died in one state who was born in another state, the state where the person

died would send a copy of the death certificate to the state where the person was born. This death certificate would then be physically attached to the birth record. Anyone who later requested this birth certificate would be refused, or made to show cause as to why it should be released. It seems so simple, but the reality is far from it.

Consider yourself. Are you carrying a copy of your birth certificate on your person? Probably not. Most Americans do not carry legal proof of birth on themselves. When a person dies in a hospital, surrounded by family and friends, there are people present who can provide the information as to the person's birth. But this does not include people who die in accidents or catastrophes. One needs to look at how death certificates are issued to get a clearer picture.

When a doctor issues a death certificate he is interested in three primary factors. The first is to make sure that the deceased is actually dead. That is why in most states a licensed physician is required to confirm the death and issue the certificate. The books are full of stories of people who were presumed dead by onlookers or paramedics who were later found to be alive!

The second consideration of the doctor issuing the death certificate is how the person died and when it occurred. If you notice on most death certificates there is a lot of writing in the section marked "causes of death." This information is important for many legal reasons, e.g., life insurance, police investigation, etc. The time of death is also important because the county registrar must record the event as accurately as possible.

The third concern of the physician is making an accurate identification of the victim. This is done initially by comparing any identification on the victim with the body. If someone who knows the victim can be found in a timely fashion, this person serves to buttress the initial identification.

If no additional information as to the birthplace of the victim can be found quickly, *the death certificate will be filled out with the information available.*

Many new identity seekers have stumbled upon just this very fact when researching death records for a suitable candidate. Often the death certificate will not contain the birthplace of the deceased, particularly if the deceased died in an accident. This same fact will cause a lot of holes in any future cross-referencing system. But these are not the only holes that will be created.

Before a state will agree to affix another state's death certificate to one of its birth records, a lot of legal conditions must be met. This is because the act of mating these two records together effectively declares this person "dead." The state could face massive amounts of legal damage if it accepts another state's death record and accidentally "kills" someone who is quite alive and well. And rest assured this would happen with some regularity if a nationwide cross-referencing system came into being. There are just too many people with similar names and birthdates to avoid a lot of mix-ups. Secondly, some states will not accept other states' certificates of death as legal records because they will not contain enough information. Clearly the states would have to agree to use a standard issue death certificate form, and use the same death certificate issuance procedures.

Another problem with this system is that, for it to be effective, both the central state vital records office and the local county registrar must be sent a copy of the death record. This also entails a lot of expense, because for every death certificate received, a vital records search would have to be performed at both the state vital records office and the county registrar level to make sure the deceased was actually "born." In addition, to cope with the liability problem mentioned earlier, the state receiving the death certificate will probably

also want independent confirmation of the death by a relative or friend of the deceased.

As one can imagine, a large time delay would be involved in any such nationwide scheme. Even if it was done, this time delay would be on the order of many weeks and would allow any new identity seeker a large “window of opportunity” to procure these records. The prospect of a nationwide database to handle this function is similarly remote. One need only look at the British to get an idea of the fiasco that would result.

The British developed a centralized national voter list back in the 1970s. In theory, the central computer is supposed to know who is authorized to vote. The names of 45 million people are stored on this database, and hundreds of thousands of names are added each year. Inputs into the system can be made at hundreds of offices nationwide. The end result is that the system is notorious for creating people where none exist, and for removing people from the voting rolls who are entitled to vote. This happens because so many people have similar names and birthdates. An active database that is so large and constantly changing is subject to huge amounts of inaccuracy. But it is one thing to tell a person he cannot vote, and quite another to tell him that he has been declared dead!



The Privacy Solution

There are two ways a solution to the ever disappearing privacy of people could occur. The first route would be the best one because it would signal a societal commitment to individual privacy. This would consist of a series of laws that expressly forbid government agencies from sharing information on individuals with other agencies, unless there were certain well defined and individual reasons for doing so. Each year all people should be sent a letter by any government agency that has files on an individual, asking that person if they would like to see a copy of whatever information is held. Federal and state government agencies should not be allowed to use private databases to get information on people that they could not get otherwise. At the state level, laws need to be passed that prohibit data-matching between state agencies, and the giving of data to federal agencies through the use of interstate compacts. All such compacts between states should first be subject to a vote by referendum in the states

concerned. Finally, the use of the Social Security number as an indexing tool should be outlawed.

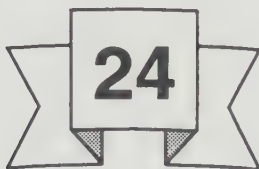
In the private realm, legislation needs to be enacted that only allows use of credit bureau records when a person applies for credit. Credit checks now can be done on people for all sorts of reasons. Employers often do them on new job applicants, and landlords often do them on prospective tenants. If a job involves access to large amounts of money, say, as a bank manager, or dealing in public security, as an armored car guard, some specific exceptions could be made. But these must be well defined and the applicant must be told beforehand, which is not now the case.

Unfortunately, the likelihood of such laws is slim. Those who collect the data and those who use it are much too powerful. But there are other ways of insuring privacy. One must use the classic methods of alternative identity acquisition with increasing diligence. One solution I propose is what I call the "box within a box." Before I describe it, I should say that when we do go to the computer vector tracing system it will be the only viable alternative. Essentially, in your real identity you will obtain one piece of "hard" state-issued identification along with some supporting identification. This person will not interact at all with the ever-expanding computer network. You will use your alternative identity to obtain your drivers license, for banking, etc. You will have privacy because you will have decided for yourself at the beginning what these computers will know about you. Through the methods outlined in this book, you will restrict even what the datahounds know about this "person." Unfortunately, this will soon be the only privacy left.



Conclusion

I hope that this book has been helpful to all those who seek an alternative identity to regain their privacy, or for those who only wish to understand the vast government record keeping that occurs. In the future, more record keeping on individuals will occur, further reducing our privacy. But any system has its weak spots and flaws, and as long as we have freedom of the press in the United States, these flaws will be exposed. The sad fact is that now privacy is something that must be taken by the individual, and when it is not, it will be removed by the government.



Recommended Reading

New I.D. In America, by Anonymous. Paladin Press, PO Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306.

The Paper Trip I & II, by Barry Reid. Eden Press, PO Box 8410, Fountain Valley, CA 92728.

Acquiring New ID, by Ragnar Benson. Paladin Press.

How To Disappear Completely And Never Be Found, by Doug Richmond. Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

The Real World of Alternate I.D. Acquisition, by D.P. Rochelle. Paladin Press.

How To Use Mail Drops for Profit, Privacy and Self-Protection, by Jack Luger. Loompanics Unlimited.

Fraudulent Credentials, U.S. House of Representatives Report, Loompanics Unlimited.

Understanding U.S. Identity Documents, by John Q. Newman.
Loompanics Unlimited.

The Modern Identity Changer, by Sheldon Charrett, Paladin Press.

Credit: the Cutting Edge, by Scott French, Paladin Press.

Consular Anti-Fraud Handbook, by U.S. Department of State,
Paladin Press.

Birth Certificate Fraud, by U.S. Inspector General. Loompanics Unlimited.

Social Security Number Fraud, Office of Inspector General.
Eden Press.

College Degrees By Mail (formerly Bear's Guide To Earning Non-Traditional College Degrees), by John Bear. Ten Speed Press, PO Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Comparative Data: State and Provincial Licensing Systems.
by U.S. Department of Transportation, Loompanics Unlimited.

Vanish!, by Johnny Yount. Paladin Press.

How To Steal A Job, by Bill Connors. Morrison Peterson Publishing, PO Box 2513, Honolulu, HI 96825.

I.D. Checking Guide, Drivers License Guide Co., PO Box 5305, Redwood City, CA 94063.

I.D. by Mail, by Barry Reid. Eden Press.

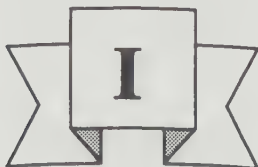
How Intelligence Agents Change Their Fingerprints, by William Wilson. Alpha Publications, PO Box 92, Sharon Center, OH 44272.

Reborn In Canada, Expanded Second Edition, by Trent Sands.
Loompanics Unlimited.

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Heavy Duty New Identity, Revised and Expanded Second Edition, by John Q. Newman. Loompanics Unlimited.

Counterfeit ID Made Easy, by Jack Luger. Loompanics Unlimited.



Appendix I

Major U.S. Newspapers

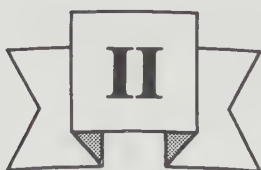
Before you can request a birth certificate you will have to research the obituary columns of out of town newspapers. This appendix will provide you with the names and cities of these newspapers. If you do not have access to a major library you can arrange to receive microfilmed copies of older editions through interlibrary loan. Another option is to call or write a major library in the city of interest and find out how much it would cost to receive copies of the obituary records from certain editions of the newspaper.

Alabama:	<i>Birmingham News</i> , Birmingham
Alaska:	<i>Anchorage Times</i> , Anchorage
Arizona:	<i>Arizona Republic</i> , Phoenix
Arkansas:	<i>Arkansas Gazette</i> , Little Rock
California:	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> , Los Angeles
	<i>The Chronicle</i> , San Francisco
	<i>The Union</i> , San Diego

Colorado:	<i>The Denver Post, Denver</i>
Connecticut:	<i>The Courant, Hartford</i>
Washington, D.C:	<i>The Washington Post</i>
Florida:	<i>The Miami Herald, Miami</i> <i>The Tampa Tribune, Tampa</i>
Georgia:	<i>The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta</i>
Hawaii:	<i>The Star-Bulletin, Honolulu</i>
Illinois:	<i>The Chicago Tribune, Chicago</i>
Indiana:	<i>The Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis</i>
Iowa:	<i>The Des Moines Register, Des Moines</i>
Kansas:	<i>The Topeka Capitol-Journal, Topeka</i>
Kentucky:	<i>The Courier Journal, Louisville</i>
Louisiana:	<i>Times-Picayune, New Orleans</i>
Maine:	<i>The Press Herald, Portland</i>
Maryland:	<i>Evening Sun, Baltimore</i>
Massachusetts:	<i>The Globe, Boston</i>
Michigan:	<i>The Detroit Free Press, Detroit</i>
Minnesota:	<i>The Star Tribune, Minneapolis</i>
Missouri:	<i>The Kansas City Times, Kansas City</i> <i>The Post-Dispatch, St. Louis</i>
Montana:	<i>The Billings Gazette, Billings</i>
Nebraska:	<i>The World-Herald, Omaha</i>
Nevada:	<i>The Review-Journal, Las Vegas</i>
New Jersey:	<i>The Star-Ledger, Newark</i>
New Mexico:	<i>The Journal, Albuquerque</i>
New York:	<i>The New York Times, New York City</i> <i>The Buffalo News, Buffalo</i>
North Carolina:	<i>The Observer, Charlotte</i>
North Dakota:	<i>The Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck</i>
Ohio:	<i>The Cincinnati Inquirer, Cincinnati</i> <i>The Plain Dealer, Cleveland</i>
Oklahoma:	<i>The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City</i>
Oregon:	<i>The Oregonian, Portland</i>

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Pennsylvania:	<i>The Inquirer</i> , Philadelphia <i>The Press</i> , Pittsburgh
Rhode Island:	<i>The Providence Journal</i> , Providence
South Carolina:	<i>The State</i> , Charlotte
Tennessee:	<i>The Commercial Appeal</i> , Memphis
Texas:	<i>The Chronicle</i> , Houston <i>The Morning Star</i> , Dallas
Utah:	<i>The Tribune</i> , Salt Lake City
Virginia:	<i>The Times Dispatch</i> , Richmond
Washington:	<i>The Seattle Times</i> , Seattle
Wisconsin:	<i>The Journal</i> , Milwaukee



Appendix II

State Vital Records Offices

Alabama

Bureau of Vital Statistics
State Department of Public Health
Montgomery, AL 36130

Alaska

Department of Health
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Pouch H-02G
Juneau, AK 99811

American Samoa

Registrar of Vital Statistics
Government of American Samoa
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Arizona

Vital Records Section
Arizona Department of Health
PO Box 3887
Phoenix, AZ 85030

Arkansas

Division of Vital Records
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

California

Vital Statistics Section
Department of Health Services
410 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Canal Zone

Panama Canal Commission
Vital Statistics Clerk
APO Miami, FL 34011

Colorado

Vital Records Section
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, CO 80220

Connecticut

Vital Records Section
State Department of Health Services
150 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Delaware

Bureau of Vital Statistics
Jesse S. Cooper Building
Dover, DE 19901

Washington, DC

Vital Records Branch
425 "T" Street NW, Room 3009
Washington, DC 20001

Florida

Department of Health
Office of Vital Statistics
PO Box 210
Jacksonville, FL 32231

Georgia

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Vital Records Unit, Room 217-H
47 Trinity Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Guam

Office of Vital Statistics
Government of Guam
PO Box 2816
Agana, Guam 96910

Hawaii

Statistics Office
State Department of Health
PO Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801

Idaho

Bureau of Vital Statistics
State Department of Public Health
Statehouse
Boise, ID 83720

Illinois

Office of Vital Records
535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Indiana

Division of Vital Records
1330 West Michigan Street
PO Box 1964
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Iowa

Vital Records Section
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kansas

Office of Vital Statistics
Forbes Field Building 740
Topeka, KS 66620

Kentucky

Office of Vital Statistics
275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621

Louisiana

Division of Vital Statistics
PO Box 60630
New Orleans, LA 70160

Maine

Office of Vital Statistics
Human Services Building
Station II
Augusta, ME 04333

Maryland

Division of Vital Statistics
State Office Building
PO Box 13146
Baltimore, MD 21203

Massachusetts

Registry of Vital Records
150 Tremont Street, Room B-3
Boston, MA 02111

Michigan

Office of The State Registrar
Michigan Department of Public Health
3500 North Logan Street
Lansing, MI 48909

Minnesota

Section of Vital Statistics
717 Delaware Street SE
PO Box 9441
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Mississippi

Vital Records
PO Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215

Missouri

Division of Health
Bureau of Vital Records
PO Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Montana

Bureau of Records and Statistics
State Department of Health
Helena, MT 59620

Nebraska

Bureau of Vital Statistics
PO Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509

Nevada

Division of Health
Vital Statistics
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

New Hampshire

Bureau of Vital Records
Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

New Jersey

Bureau of Vital Statistics
CN 360
Trenton, NJ 08625

New Mexico

Vital Statistics Bureau
PO Box 968
Santa Fe, NM 87504

New York

Bureau of Vital Records
Tower Building
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

New York City

Bureau of Vital Records
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

North Carolina

Vital Records Branch
PO Box 2091
Raleigh, NC 27602

North Dakota

Division of Vital Records
Office of Statistical Services
Bismarck, ND 58505

Ohio

Division of Vital Statistics
65 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Oklahoma

Vital Records Section
PO Box 53551
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Oregon

Vital Statistics Section
PO Box 116
Portland, OR 97207

Pennsylvania

Division of Vital Statistics
PO Box 1528
New Castle, PA 16103

Puerto Rico

Vital Statistics
Department of Health
San Juan, PR 00908

Rhode Island

Division of Vital Statistics
75 Davis Street
Providence, RI 02908

South Carolina

Office of Vital Records
600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

South Dakota

Health Statistics
Joe Foss Office Building
Pierre, SD 57501

Tennessee

Tennessee Vital Statistics
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37219

Texas

Bureau of Vital Statistics
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

U.S. Virgin Islands

Registrar of Vital Statistics (St. Croix)
Charles Harwood Memorial Hospital
St. Croix, U.S. VI 00820
(St. Thomas/St. John)
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, U.S. VI 00802

Utah

Bureau of Health Statistics
PO Box 2500
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Vermont

Vital Records Section
Box 70, 60 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05402

Washington

Vital Records
PO Box 9709, ET-11
Olympia, WA 98504

West Virginia

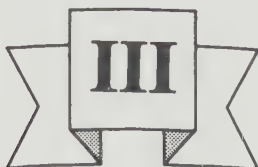
Division of Vital Statistics
State Office Building No. 3
Charleston, WV 25305

Wisconsin

Bureau of Health Statistics
PO Box 309
Madison, WI 53701

Wyoming

Vital Record Section
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002



Appendix III

Social Security Number List

As part of your identity change you will be required to use a bogus interim Social Security number. The following list provides a guide to the current number series in use for each state. You will also notice at the bottom of the list, is a group of new number series that are coming into use. These numbers should be avoided. Remember that your Social Security number should match the “background” that you are trying to present.

Alabama	416-424
Alaska	574
Arizona	526-527
Arkansas	429-432
California	545-573
Colorado	521-524
Connecticut	040-049

Delaware	221-222
D.C.	577-579
Florida	261-267
Georgia	252-260
Hawaii	575-576
Idaho	518-519
Illinois	318-361
Indiana	303-317
Iowa	478-485
Kansas	509-515
Kentucky	400-407
Louisiana	433-439
Maine	004-007
Maryland	212-220
Massachusetts	010-034
Michigan	362-386
Minnesota	468-477
Mississippi	425-428
Missouri	486-500
Montana	516-517
Nebraska	505-508
Nevada	530
New Hampshire	001-003
New Jersey	135-158
New Mexico	525 & 585
New York	050-134
North Carolina	237-246
North Dakota	501-502
Ohio	286-302
Oklahoma	440-448
Oregon	540-544
Pennsylvania	159-211
Rhode Island	035-039
South Carolina	247-251

Appendix III
Social Security Number List
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South Dakota	503-504
Tennessee	408-415
Texas	449-467
Utah	528-529
Vermont	008-009
Virginia	223-231
Washington	531-539
West Virginia	223-231
Wisconsin	387-399
Wyoming	520

Additions

Arizona	600-601
California	602-626
Florida	589-595
Mississippi	587-588
New Mexico	585
North Carolina	232

Miscellaneous

Virgin Islands	580
Puerto Rico	580-584
Guam, Samoa & Pacific Territories	586
Railroad Ret.	700-728



Appendix IV

Motor Vehicle Department Addresses

Before you go to your new state and attempt to obtain a State Identity Card and Drivers License you should write ahead and request a copy of the drivers booklet. Your cover story will be that you are moving to the state soon and want to prepare for the test early. The return address will be that of your mail forwarding service. This will let you know in advance what types of identification you will need to get the state identity card and drivers license.

Alabama

Department of Public Safety
Drivers License Division
PO Box 1471
Montgomery, AL 36192
205-261-4400

Alaska

Department of Public Safety
Pouch N
Juneau, AK 99811
907-465-4364

Arizona

Motor Vehicle Division
1801 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85009
602-255-7723

Arkansas

Office of Driver Services
PO Box 1272
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-371-1743

California

Department of Motor Vehicles
Division of Drivers Licenses
PO Box 12590
Sacramento, CA 95813
916-445-6236

Colorado

Motor Vehicle Division
140 West 6th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204
303-866-3407

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Connecticut

Department of Motor Vehicles
60 State Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
203-566-3300

Delaware

Motor Vehicle Division
PO Box 698
Highway Administration Building
Dover, DE 19901
302-736-4497

District of Columbia

Department of Motor Vehicles
301 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-727-6679

Florida

Division of Drivers Licenses
Department of Highway Safety
Neil Kirkman Building
Tallahassee, FL 32201
904-488-3144

Georgia

Department of Public Safety
PO Box 1456
Atlanta, GA 30371
404-656-5890

Hawaii

Motor Vehicle Safety Office
Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-548-3205/5756

Idaho

Motor Vehicle Bureau
PO Box 34
Boise, ID 83731
208-334-2586

Illinois

Department of Motor Vehicles
2701 Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62723
217-782-6212

Indiana

Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Room 4021
State Office Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-2798

Iowa

Department of Transportation
Office of Drivers Licenses
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-5649

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Motor Vehicle Department Addresses
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Kansas

Department of Revenue
Division of Motor Vehicles
State Office Building
Topeka, KS 66626
913-296-3601

Kentucky

Transportation Cabinet
Division of Drivers Licensing
State Office Building
Frankfort, KY 40622
502-564-6800

Louisiana

Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
PO Box 64886
Baton Rouge, LA 70896
504-925-6343

Maine

Secretary of State
Division of Motor Vehicles
Augusta, ME 04333
207-289-3583

Maryland

Motor Vehicle Administration
6601 Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie, MD 21062
301-768-7255

Massachusetts

Registry of Motor Vehicles
100 Nashua Street
Boston, MA 02114
617-727-3700

Michigan

Bureau of Driver & Vehicle Records
Secondary Complex
Lansing, MI 48918
517-322-1460

Minnesota

Drivers License Division
161 Transportation Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
612-296-6000

Mississippi

Department of Public Safety
PO Box 958
Jackson, MS 39205
601-982-1212

Missouri

Drivers License Bureau
PO Box 200
Jefferson City, MO 65101
314-751-2733

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Motor Vehicle Department Addresses
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Montana

Drivers Section
303 N Roberts
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-3273

Nebraska

Department of Motor Vehicles
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 94789
Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-2281

Nevada

Department of Motor Vehicles
Drivers License Division
555 Wright Way
Carson City, NV 89711
702-885-5360

New Hampshire

Division of Motor Vehicles
Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2371

New Jersey

Division of Motor Vehicles
25 S Montgomery Street
Trenton, NJ 08666
609-292-9849

New Mexico

Motor Vehicle Division
Drivers Service Bureau
Manual Lujan Sr. Building
Santa Fe, NM 87503
505-827-2362

New York

License Production Bureau
PO Box 2688
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12220
518-474-2068

North Carolina

Division of Motor Vehicles
1100 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27697
919-733-4241

North Dakota

State License Division
State Highway Building
Capitol Grounds
Bismarck, ND 58505
701-224-4353

Ohio

Bureau of Motor Vehicles
4300 Kimberly Parkway
Columbus, OH 43227
614-466-7666

Oklahoma

Department of Public Safety
3600 N Eastern
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
405-424-0411

Oregon

Motor Vehicle Division
1905 Lana Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-6994

Pennsylvania

Bureau of Drivers Licensing
Commonwealth & Forstre
Harrisburg, PA 17122
717-787-3130

Rhode Island

Division of Motor Vehicles
State Office Building
Providence, RI 02903
401-277-3000

South Carolina

Department of Highways & Public Transportation
Motor Vehicle Division
Drawer 1498
Columbia, SC 29216
803-758-3201

South Dakota

Department of Public Safety
118 W Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3191

Tennessee

Department of Safety
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, TN 37210

Texas

Department of Public Safety
PO Box 4087
5805 N Lamar
Austin, TX 78773
512-465-2000

Utah

Department of Public Safety
Drivers License Division
4501 South 2700 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
801-965-4400

Vermont

Department of Motor Vehicles
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-2121

Virginia

Department of Motor Vehicles
PO Box 27412
Richmond, VA 23269-0001
804-257-0406

Washington

Department of Licensing
Highways-Licenses Building
Olympia, WA 98504
206-753-6977

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Motor Vehicle Department Addresses
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West Virginia

Department of Motor Vehicles
1800 Washington Street E
Charleston, WV 25317
304-348-2719

Wisconsin

Division of Motor Vehicles
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53702
608-266-2237

Wyoming

Motor Vehicle Division
2200 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7971



Appendix V

Mail Order Churches

Calvary Fellowship Church
316 California Avenue #435
Reno, NV 89509

Victory New Testament Fellowship
PO Box 3731
Dallas, TX 75208

American Life Church
PO Box 7583
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Disciples of Divine Rights
Box 7498
Long Island, NY 10027

Also check newspaper ads in *The National Enquirer*, *The Star*, and *The Globe*.

YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO READ:

☐ **61129 UNDERSTANDING U.S. IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**, *by John Q. Newman*. The most detailed examination of identity documents ever published. This guide is a must for all new identity seekers and anyone interested in identification and alternate I.D. This book covers birth certificates, Social Security cards, drivers licenses and passports. It shows how each document is generated and used, and explains the strengths and weaknesses of the agencies issuing them. 1991, 8½ x 11, 207 pp, *illustrated, soft cover*. \$27.95.

☐ **61138 SCRAM, Relocating Under A New Identity**, *by James S. Martin, Attorney at Law*. Have you ever watched a ship go out to sea and wished you were on it, leaving your problems behind? You're not alone. Many people would love to make a fresh start, in a new town, under a new name. But how? This book will answer all your questions about relocating under a new identity. Covers: Divorce, Bankruptcy, I.D., Insurance, Travel, Your chances for Success, And much more. Also included are 10 real-life case histories that show problems and opportunities for identity-changers. 1993, 5½ x 8½, 83 pp, *soft cover*. \$12.95.

☐ **61116 THE HEAVY DUTY NEW IDENTITY**, *Revised & Expanded, Second Edition, by John Q. Newman*. Learn what it's really like living under a new identity. In this updated and expanded hard-hitting book, you'll meet undercover cops, federal witnesses and fugitives from the law who've tried living the lie of an assumed identity. Newman provides a detailed program for establishing a new identity that will not fail. When there is no other choice — get *The Heavy Duty New Identity*. 1998, 5½ x 8½, 112 pp, *soft cover*. \$12.95.

☐ **10060 OUR VANISHING PRIVACY**, *And What You Can Do to Protect Yourself, by Robert Ellis Smith*. This shocking book reveals how much strangers know about your private life. Someone's collecting information about your health, your finances, your love life. And they don't have your best interests at heart. *Our Vanishing Privacy* reveals the secrets of the snoops — what they know and how they get their information — and tells you what you need to know to fight back. Smith, the publisher of the *Privacy Journal*, is one of the most outspoken advocates of privacy in the world. 1993, 5½ x 8½, 136 pp, *soft cover*. \$12.95.

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